Visitors and Observations

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) and Administration of the Bethany Public School District (District) encourages visits by members of the community and other interested parties to the school. In order to promote a safe and productive educational environment for all students and staff, the Board requires all visitors to receive prior approval from the Administration or designee before being permitted to visit the school. The Board, through the Administration, reserves the right to limit visits in accordance with Administrative Regulations.

The Board further desires to work collaboratively with parents/guardians with an educational nexus, its educational programs, or the student being observed, to observe their student in their current classroom or observe proposed educational placements within the school. The Board, through the Administration, reserves the right to limit observations of current and proposed educational placements in accordance with Administrative Regulations and the Board's Guidelines for Independent Educational Evaluations.

Although Board members are encouraged to visit schools independently, they have authority only in regularly called meetings of the Board, or when delegated specific tasks by specific Board action.

Upon arrival, all visitors and observers must comply with any and all applicable building security procedures, including but not limited to utilizing security buzzers for access, complying with requests for photo identification, reporting directly to and signing in and out at the visitors' reception area of the school office, prominently displaying visitors' badges or other identification required for visitors to the school, limiting access to those areas of the building and grounds for which the visitors/observers have authorized access, and complying with directives of school officials at all times. All visitors and observers permitted into the school or on school grounds must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including but not limited to any health screening protocols.

The Administration or designees shall have complete authority to exclude from the school premises any persons whom he/she has reason to believe are disrupting the educational programs in the classroom or in the school, are disturbing the teachers or students on the premises, or whom the Administration believes are on the premises for the purposes of committing an illegal act.

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish and maintain administrative regulations for this policy.

Legal Reference: "Guidelines Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense and In-School Observations," Connecticut State Department of Education (March 28, 2018).

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
Policy revised: November 18, 2015
Policy revised: June 13, 2018
Policy revised: December 12, 2018
Policy revised: January 8, 2020
Policy revised: December 8, 2021
Policy revised: April 9, 2025

Source: Shipman