

#9540.11**News Media Services at Meetings**

The Board believes that one of the paramount responsibilities of a Board of Education is to keep the public informed of its actions. Consequently, the local news media representatives will be welcome to attend all regular, special, and annual meetings of the Board.

A copy of the agenda of all official Board meetings will be made available to members of the working press who request it. In the event that representatives of the news media are unable to attend a meeting, upon request, they will be provided a summary of important Board actions.

All reports approved by the Board will be a matter of official record and, upon request, will be made available to the press or other members of the public. No report-in-progress, including all of those on which the Board has taken no final action, will be released by any Board or staff member unless the Board specifically authorizes its release as a "tentative report."

In situations where individual Board members receive requests from news media representatives for information about Board meetings, members may speak only for themselves and not as spokesperson for the Board unless this responsibility has been specifically delegated to a Board member.

Date of Adoption: 3/7/95

#9900**School Board Legislative Program**

The Board, as an agent of the State, must operate within the bounds of state and federal laws affecting public education. If the Board is to meet its responsibilities to the residents and students of this community, it must work vigorously for the passage of new laws designed to advance the cause of good schools and for the repeal or modification of existing laws that impede this cause. To this end, the Board ...

- Will keep itself informed of pending legislation and actively communicate its concerns and make its position known to elected representatives at both the state and national level.
- May work with its legislative representatives (both state and federal), with the state school boards association, the National School Boards Association, and other concerned groups in developing an annual, as well as long-range, legislative program. One of the major objectives of the Board's legislative program will be to seek full funding for all state and federally mandated programs.
- May annually designate a person—who may or may not be a member of the Board—to serve as its legislative representative. This person will be authorized to speak on the Board's behalf with respect to legislation being considered by the state legislature or the United States Congress or their respective committees. In all dealings with individual elected representatives, the legislature, or Congress, the Board's representative will be guided by the official positions taken by the Board.

Board's Legislative Representative

A legislative representative may serve as the Board's liaison with the state school board association legislative assembly. The legislative representative may attend state school boards' association assemblies, conveying local views and concerns to that body and participating in the formulation of state legislative programs. The legislative representative will monitor proposed school legislation and inform the Board of the issues.

Date of Adoption: 3/7/95

**#9910
State Legislative Program**

The Board recognizes the importance of sound and constructive state legislation in establishing the framework and support for public education. It is therefore directly concerned with legislative proposals affecting education.

If the Board has appointed a designated legislative liaison member, that member will report to the Board on legislative proposals, and the Board will make its position known both to the state school boards association and to appropriate state representatives and senators.

The legislative liaison member will also keep the Board informed of pertinent federal legislative proposals and communicate the Board's position to representatives and senators at the national level.

Date of Adoption: 3/7/95

#5120.9.4**Bicycle and Rollerblade Use**

The principal of each building will set specific rules for students for the use of bicycles and rollerblades to and from the school. The privileges of riding a bicycle or using rollerblades may be withdrawn if a student fails to observe the rules for bicycle or rollerblade use set by the school or by Connecticut state law.

In general, students who ride bicycles to school are requested to park them in an orderly fashion and at the location requested by the building principal. To discourage theft, the use of bicycle locks is highly recommended. Students are required to park bicycles upon arrival at school and leave them until ready to return home. Similarly, students who rollerblade to school are requested to remove rollerblades upon arrival at school and store them as designated by the principal until ready to return home. For safety reasons, riding bicycles or rollerblading on school grounds during school hours will not be permitted. Bicycle riders and rollerbladers are expected to know the rules of the road and to follow them.

Additionally, the Board strongly urges compliance with state law requiring the use of bicycle helmets for children and charges parents with monitoring their own child's use of appropriate headgear and other safety gear for both bicycling and rollerblading.

Date of Adoption: April 2, 1996

**5120.4.2.3
Substance Abuse Counseling**

Health problems of youth are primarily the responsibility of the home and community, but schools share in that responsibility because substance abuse problems often interfere with school behavior, student learning, and the fullest possible development of each student.

The Board recognizes that substance abuse is a treatable health problem which does not respect any group or age. Under no circumstances does the district condone the use or abuse of chemical substances and the district discipline policy governing such abuse, will continue to be strictly observed.

The Board recognizes that substance abuse affects not only the individual but the total family. Therefore, when a student is involved in substance abuse, services will be offered to assist the student and/or his/her family. These services may include education and awareness, identification, assessment, referral, and follow-up with student support services.

Principals will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the substance abuse prevention program at their school site. The parents and community are responsible for learning about the school's substance abuse program and cooperating in its implementation.

A curriculum that stresses preventive substance abuse education will be conducted throughout the K - 12 program. The curriculum will be regularly reviewed and updated to assure accurate and comprehensive programming

(cf: 5090.7 Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants, and Performance Enhancing Substances)

(cf: 5110.4 Suspension / Expulsion / Exclusion from School / School Activities)

(cf: 6080.14.1 Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Education)

Date of Adoption: June 4, 1996

Technical Revision: August 22, 2006