

*This policy has been temporarily suspended, effective August 19, 2021, until such time as Policy C-19-1250 is no longer in effect.*

## **Community Relations**

### **Visits to the Schools**

Board of Education members are encouraged to visit schools to become acquainted with school personnel and programs; however, Board members have authority only in scheduled meetings of the Board, as members of Board committees or when delegated specific tasks by specific Board action.

Members of the public and individual Board members interested in visiting schools or classrooms will make arrangements 48 hours in advance for visitations through the administrators of the various schools.

Subject to the direction and approval of the Board, the Superintendent is authorized to establish such reasonable regulations as will:

1. Ensure student safety.
2. Provide for appropriate hospitality for visitors.
3. Require all visitors to present a valid state-issued ID (driver's license, identification card, work VISA or green card) upon their arrival at the school and to wear a visitor's badge.
4. Ensure that the orderly process of school activities is not disrupted.
5. Channel expressions of approval as well as constructive criticism to the staff and to the Board of Education.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the Principal's and teacher's approval. Such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. When a visit involves a conference with a teacher or the Principal, an appointment should be scheduled during non-instructional time.

Since continuity in classrooms is often difficult to achieve and maintain, while visiting in a classroom, a visitor must not interrupt the class in any way, nor speak to (unless invited to do so) or disturb the students or teacher.

The Principal or her/his designee shall have complete authority to exclude from the school premises any persons whom s/he 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 Principal believes are on the premises for the purpose of committing an illegal act.

## **Community Relations**

### **Visits to the Schools** (continued)

#### **Visitor Registration**

Non-school people may not initiate, direct, conduct, control or regularly attend the meetings of student groups.

School volunteers are required to follow procedures outlined in Policy 1212 – School Volunteers, and to sign in when they are visiting or volunteering in the schools.

(cf. 1212 - School Volunteers)

(cf. 9010 - Responsibilities and Limits of Authority)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-151b Evaluation by superintendents of certain educational personnel

53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class misdemeanor.

Policy adopted: October 19, 2000  
Policy revised: June 5, 2014  
Policy revised: May 21, 2015  
Policy revised: August 19, 2021

**NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
New Fairfield, Connecticut

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### **Visits to the Schools**

#### **Student Visitors**

Under normal conditions, students are urged not to bring visitors to school. Their presence can create problems and interruptions that are unnecessary.

There are occasions, however, when visitors are permissible and welcome. Students who wish to have a visitor, must contact the main school office at least one week in advance of the anticipated visit and obtain the appropriate visitor's form. The completed form must be on file prior to the visit.

As a general rule, visitors should be of approximately the same school age as the students in attendance at the school.

Decisions are to be made at the administrator's discretion.

The visitor must accompany the district student throughout the day and is responsible for obeying all school rules.

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