



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D. – Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

TO: Woodbridge Board of Education

FROM: Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

DATE: October 13, 2021

RE: Proposed Revision of Policy 6161.51, "Surveys & Screening of Students"

Based on last evening's meeting of the Policy Committee, please find attached a proposed revision of Policy 6161.51, which is a federally mandated policy based on the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) of 1978. A review of the District's current policy against the PPRA and the model policy by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) supports the following proposed revisions, all represented in red:

- (1) By federal law, a student may take a survey related to any of 8 particular topics only if the student's parent/guardian *consents*; active *consent from* (rather than mere notification of) the parent/guardian is required.
- (2) By federal law, parents/guardians have the right to inspect surveys created by third parties.
- (3) By federal law, parents/guardians have the right to review instructional material used as part of the curriculum.
- (4) By federal law, this policy must be noticed to parents/guardians at least annually.

Instruction

Surveys & Screening of Students

Surveys and "screens" can be valuable resources to help schools improve educational services. A "survey" may consist of a compilation of questions used to collect information for various purposes, including, but not limited to, determining student knowledge and/or attitudes towards specific subjects, or to adapt or modify school programming. A "screen" is a generic tool, applied on a grade-wide or school-wide basis, in order to obtain information for survey purposes, and/or to determine student qualification for class placement, school admission or other related purposes. A "screen" may become part of the student record. A "survey" will not become part of the student record.

Administrators, teachers, other school staff and the Board of Education may administer surveys or screens for purposes of assessing and/or improving character development and academic performance. Administrative approval is required for surveys and screens. When a survey or screen is used, every effort will be made to ask questions in a neutral manner to ensure the accuracy of the survey or screen. Student responses and data collected from surveys will not be used in any manner that would personally identify students; however, data collected may be shared with appropriate educational entities as permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

Teachers and other staff members at various points throughout the school year may perform surveys and screens.

No student may, without parental ~~notification~~ consent, take part in any survey or screen that reveals information regarding:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent(s) / guardian(s);
2. Mental or psychological ~~issues~~ problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, counselors, clergy etc.;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s) / guardian(s); or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

~~Parents and guardians will be notified prior to administration of each survey or screen. Any parent or guardian who does not want his or her child to take part in a survey or screen must, at the time of notification, inform the school Principal in writing that his or her child may not participate in the survey or screening process.~~

~~In the event the District plans to survey students to gather information included in the above list, the District will obtain written consent from the parent/guardian in advance of administering the survey. The consent form will also apprise the parent/guardian of the right to inspect the survey prior to the child's participation.~~

~~Surveys conducted for other agencies, organizations, or individuals must have the recommendation of the Superintendent and the approval of the Board of Education as to content and purpose. The results of such approved surveys must be shared with the Board of Education.~~

~~Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have the right to inspect, upon their request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Such requests shall be made in writing with a response to be at least two weeks in advance of any survey to be given.~~

~~It is the District's policy not to collect, disclose, or use personal information gathered from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or providing it to others for that purpose. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students, or educational~~

institutions.

The parents/guardians of a student shall also have the right to inspect and review, upon written request to the Principal, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum. The District shall grant access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time, identified as within 30 calendar days, after such a request is received.

Parents/guardians shall be notified at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, of this policy.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.L. 103-227 Section 1017 (which amends Section 439 of the General Education Provisions Act)

P.L. 107-110, (HR 1-"Leave No Child Behind") § 1061/1062 - Student Privacy, Parental Access to Information, and Administration of Certain Physical Examinations to Minors.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §1232h Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. 114-95 Regulation 34 CFR Part 98 (PPRA Regulations).

Policy adopted: ~~May 20, 2014~~

WOODBIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Woodbridge, Connecticut