

Community Relations Goals

The Board of Education strives to conduct district affairs by way of a continuing, open dialogue between the community and the schools. Given district residents' high level of interest in the education of children, the Board wishes to maintain its high level of sensitivity to the needs and desires of the community and to act expeditiously to meet changing needs and conditions.

To this end, the Board establishes the following goals for community involvement:

1. Provided a variety of means whereby residents of the school district may have the opportunity to contribute their best thinking to the orderly planning of education for children in the district;
2. Keep the community accurately informed about its schools;
3. Understand community attitudes and aspirations for the schools;
4. Encourage contributions from the parent-teacher associations of the district so that school personnel and parents cooperate to advance the educational welfare of the children;
5. Handle all complaints from the public by the administrative officer in charge of the unit of the school district organization closest to the complainant. However, such complaints may be carried to the Superintendent of Schools and / or the Board if the problem cannot be solved at that level;
6. Promote a spirit of cooperation among the Board, the schools, and the community
7. Develop and maintain the confidence of the community in the Board and the school district staff;
8. Expand the public understanding of every aspect of the school system, and stimulate public interest in the school;
9. Facilitate dissemination of information to the community concerning issues and activities in the school using not only traditional modes of communication, such as a district newsletter, but also current modes of communication such as the District's website and social networking sites;
10. Ascertain the community's opinions and desires with respect to the operations of the school system, and to incorporate that knowledge into its actions;
11. Build relationships with local businesses, local government, health care, social service, civic and community organizations to share resources in order to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all of our students; and
12. Develop and maintain an effective means of communication with the people of the district.

Notwithstanding the above, the final decisions in these areas will rest with the Board.

First Reading: October 14, 2014

Second Reading: October 28, 2014

Adoption: October 28, 2014

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND ELECTION

The district shall hold an annual meeting and election at which the district's authorized voters will elect members of the Board of Education and vote on the district budget for the coming school year. The annual district meeting and election will be held on the third Tuesday in May, unless this date conflicts with religious observances on that day, in which case the annual meeting and election will be held on the second Tuesday in May.

The District Clerk shall publish a notice of the time and place of the annual meeting and election at least four times within the seven weeks prior to the meeting, in two newspapers having general circulation within the district. The first publication of the notice shall be at least 45 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall also contain notice of any other matter required by law.

Copies of the budget to be voted upon at the annual meeting election will be available in each district school building for district residents upon request at the time of the annual meeting and election and 14 days (other than Saturday, Sunday and holidays) prior to the meeting.

The Board shall appoint assistant clerks and election inspectors necessary for the annual meeting and election at a Board meeting held before the annual meeting and election.

Propositions

The Board has the authority, under the Education Law, to adopt reasonable rules and regulations concerning the submission of petitions to the Board to place propositions on the ballot which may amend the budget. Pursuant to those provisions, the Board establishes the following guidelines:

1. Unless otherwise provided by the Education Law, petitions for the submission of a proposition must contain a minimum of 25 signatures or 5 percent of the number of the eligible voters who voted in the previous annual election of Board members, whichever is greater
2. Petitions must be filed with the District Clerk at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, except for petitions relating to a proposition which must be included in the notice of the annual meeting (e.g., changing the number of board members). Such petitions must be submitted 60 days in advance of the annual meeting to facilitate the preparation and printing of the ballots.
3. Propositions must include the specific appropriations necessary for the purposes listed.
4. Wording of a petition must comply with legal requirements. If the wording does not comply, it may be changed or altered by the Board, or the Board may reject a petition for failure to comply.

Propositions received in accordance with these specifications will be placed on the ballot as amendments and will be voted upon by the voters in the same manner as the proposed budget, except that the Board shall not be required to place any proposition on the ballot which is within the exclusive province of the Board, or otherwise forbidden by law. No proposition involving the budget may be submitted to the voters more than twice.

The Board may also, on its own motion, submit propositions.

Ref: Education Law §§416(3); 1608(2); 1716(2) 1804(4); 1906(1); 2002(1); 2003(1)(2); 2004(1)-(7); 2009; 2021;2022(1), (4)-(5); 2035(2); 2601-a(2)
General Construction Law §60
Matter of Hebel, 34 EDR 319 (1994)
Matter of Martin, 32 EDR 567 (1993)
Matter of Como, 30 EDR 214 (1990)

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS

It is the policy of the Board of Education to inform members of the public about the administration and operation of the public schools in accordance with the Freedom of Information Law of the State of New York.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations ensuring compliance with the Freedom of Information Law and setting forth the procedures to be followed to obtain access to district records, and submit such regulations to the Board for approval. The Superintendent shall designate, with Board approval, a Records Access and Records Management Officer, pursuant to law.

Retention and Destruction of Records

The Board hereby adopts the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1 issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, which contains the legal minimum retention periods for district records. In accordance with Article 57-A, the district will dispose of only those records described in the schedule after they have met the minimum retention periods set forth in the schedule. The district will dispose of only those records that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal or historical value to merit retention beyond the established legal minimum periods.

The Superintendent will communicate with applicable parties, including the school attorney and the records management official, to ensure that, when appropriate, a litigation-hold is properly implemented. The litigation-hold is intended to prevent the destruction or disposal of records that may need to be produced as part of discovery. It is the intention of the Board of Education to comply with applicable rules and regulations regarding the production of necessary documents, data, (i.e. e-mails) files, etc. The Board directs the Superintendent to institute such procedures to implement this policy.

Cross-ref: 8630, Computer Resources and Data Management

Ref: Public Officers Law §84 *et seq.* (Freedom of Information Law)
Education Law §2116
Arts and Cultural Affairs Law §57.11
Local Government Records Law, Article 57-A
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, 16, 26
8 NYCRR Part 185 (Appendix I)

First Reading: October 28, 2008
Second Reading: November 10, 2008
Adoption date: November 10, 2008

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS REGULATION

The following comprises the rules and regulations relating to the inspection and copying of school district records:

I. Designation of Officers

1. The Records Access Officer shall be the Superintendent of Schools. He/She shall:
 - receive requests for records of the Board of Education and make such records available for inspection or copying when such requests are granted; and
 - compile and maintain a detailed current list by subject matter, of all records in the possession of the Board, whether or not available to the public.
2. The Superintendent of Schools, with the Board's approval, shall be the Records Access Officer for the district. The Records Management Officer will develop and oversee a program for the orderly and efficient management of district records.

II. Definition of Records

1. A record is defined as any information kept, held, filed, produced or reproduced by, with or for the district in any physical form whatsoever, including but not limited to reports, statements, examinations, memoranda, opinions, folders, files, books, manuals, pamphlets, forms, papers, designs, drawings, maps, photos, letters, microfilms, computer tapes or disks, rules, regulations or codes.
2. The Records Access Officer will have the responsibility for compiling and maintaining the following records:
 - a. a record of the final vote of each member of the Board on any proceeding or matter on which the member votes;
 - b. a record setting forth the name, school or office address, title and salary of every officer or employee of the district; and
 - c. a reasonably detailed current list by subject matter of all records in possession of the district, whether or not available for public inspection and copying.
3. No record for which there is a pending request for access may be destroyed. However, nothing in these regulations shall require the district to prepare any record not possessed or maintained by it except the records specified in II(2), above.

III. Access to Records

1. Time and place records may be inspected: Records may be requested from, and inspected or copied at, the district office on Farrell Road during the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on any business day on which the district offices are open.
2. Fees: The fee for documents up to 9 x 14 inches is 25 cents per page. For documents larger than 9 x 14 inches, tape or cassette records, or computer printouts, the cost will be based on the cost of reproduction or program utilized. Fees are subject to periodic review and change. However, no fee shall be charged for the search for or inspection of records, certification of documents, or copies of documents which have been printed or reproduced for distribution to the public. The number of such copies given to any one organization or individual may be limited, in the discretion of the Records Access Officer.
3. Procedures: Requests to inspect or secure copies of records shall be submitted in writing, either in person or by mail, to the Records Access Officer.
4. All requests for information shall be responded to within five business days of receipt of the request. If the request cannot be fulfilled within five business days, the Records Access Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the request and advise the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied.
5. Denial of Access: When a request for access to a public record is denied, the Records Access Officer shall indicate in writing the reasons for such denial, and the right to appeal.
6. Appeal: An applicant denied access to a public record may file an appeal by delivering a copy of the request and a copy of the denial to the Board President within 30 days after the denial from which such appeal is taken.
7. The applicant and the New York State Committee on Open Government will be informed of the Board President's determination in writing within 10 business days of receipt of an appeal. The Board President shall transmit to the Committee on Open Government photocopies of all appeals and determinations.

IV. Records Exempted from Public Access

The provisions of this regulation relating to information available for public inspection and copying shall not apply to records that:

1. are specifically exempted from disclosure by state and/or federal statute;
2. if disclosed would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

3. if disclosed would impair present or imminent contract awards or collective bargaining negotiations;
4. are confidentially disclosed to the Board and compiled and maintained for the regulation of commercial enterprise, including trade secrets, or for the grant or review of a license;
5. are compiled for law enforcement purposes and which, if disclosed, would:
 - a. interfere with law enforcement investigations or judicial proceedings;
 - b. deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication;
 - c. identify a confidential source or disclose confidential techniques or procedures, except routine techniques or procedures; or
 - d. reveal criminal investigative techniques or procedures, except routine techniques and procedures;
6. records which if disclosed would endanger the life or safety of any person;
7. records which are interagency or intra-agency communications, except to the extent that such materials consist of:
 - a. statistical or factual tabulations or data;
 - b. instructions to staff which affect the public;
 - c. final Board policy determinations; or
 - d. external audits, including but not limited to audits performed by the comptroller and the federal government;
8. records which are examination questions or answers that are requested prior to the final administration of such questions;
9. records which are computer access codes.

V. Prevention of Unwarranted Invasion of Privacy

To prevent an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the Records Access Officer may delete identifying details when records are made available. An unwarranted invasion of personal privacy includes but shall not be limited to:

1. disclosure of confidential personal matters reported to the Board which are not relevant or essential to the ordinary work of the Board;
2. disclosure of employment, medical or credit histories or personal references of applicants for employment, unless the applicant has provided a written release permitting such disclosures;

3. sale or release of lists of names and addresses in the possession of the Board if such lists would be used for private, commercial or fund-raising purposes;
4. disclosure of information of a personal nature when disclosure would result in economic or personal hardship to the subject party and such records are not relevant or essential to the ordinary work of the Board; or
5. disclosure of items involving the medical or personal records of a client or patient in a hospital or medical facility.

Unless otherwise deniable, disclosure shall not be construed to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy when identifying details are deleted, when the person to whom records pertain consents in writing to disclosure, or when upon representing reasonable proof of identify, a person seeks access to records pertaining to him or her.

VI. Listing of Records

Pursuant to Section 87(3)(c) of the Public Officers Law, the current records retention schedule for school districts, published by the Commissioner of Education, shall serve as the list by subject matter of all records in the possession of the school district, whether or not available under the law.

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS

The Board of Education invites and welcomes the active participation of all forms of mass media in promoting the cause of good education within the district and elsewhere.

The Board President is designated as the spokesperson for the Board when the Board is making a statement on an issue. The Superintendent of Schools is designated as the spokesperson for the district.

All staff desiring to release information to the media will first notify the Superintendent. The Superintendent of Schools shall establish all necessary procedures to govern day-to-day interactions between the schools and the news media.

Ref: Arts and Cultural Affairs Law §61.09

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at regular meetings of the Board. The meeting agenda will indicate when the open session is being held during any regular meeting of the Board. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson.

During open sessions presentation should be as brief as possible. Speakers may comment on any agenda during the open session. However, speakers presenting complaints must have first gone through the established complaint procedures. The Board reserves the right to delay action for later meetings.

The Board will not permit in public session discussion involving individual district personnel or students. Persons wishing to discuss matters involving individual district personnel or students should present their comments and/or concerns to the Superintendent during regular business hours. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, libelous statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated.

The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the time to be allowed for public discussion and the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The President shall have the right to discontinue any presentation which violates this policy.

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

The Board of Education recognizes the right of community members to register individual or group concerns regarding instruction, district programs, materials, operations, and/or staff members. The main goal of the district is to resolve such concerns specifically with the parties involved, whenever possible.

Public complaints about the school district will be directed to the proper administrative personnel. Complaints about specific classroom practices shall be directed to the teacher concerned. If the matter is not settled satisfactorily, the complainant shall then contact the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The Superintendent shall refer the issue to the Board for final resolution, if necessary.

All matters referred to the Superintendent and/or the Board shall be in writing. Concerns registered directly to the Board as a whole or to an individual Board member shall be referred as soon as is reasonably possible to the Superintendent for investigation, report, and/or resolution.

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the selection of instructional materials. The Board expects district teachers and administrators to recommend books and other materials in accord with sound educational principles and practices, and to use them effectively in the classrooms. However, the Board also recognizes the right of community members to voice concerns and/or complaints regarding the implementation of a particular curriculum and/or instructional material.

Any criticism of instructional materials that are in the schools that cannot be resolved informally shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent of Schools. An Instructional Material Review Committee, consisting of an administrator, a librarian, a teacher and a parent of a student enrolled in the district, will be designated by the Superintendent to investigate and judge the challenged material.

The committee shall make recommendations to the Superintendent concerning the disposition of the complaint, and the Superintendent will issue a decision. This decision may be appealed to the Board, and the decision of the Board shall be final.

Ref: Education Law §§1709(15); 1711(5)(f)
Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REGULATION

The following procedures shall apply to the handling of complaints concerning any textbook, library book or material and any other instructional material used in district schools.

1. When a person has a complaint concerning a textbook, library book or other instructional material and protests its use in class or its availability in a school library, the Building Principal shall hold an informal meeting with the complainant and the teacher, librarian, or other staff member who is using or providing the book or material. At this meeting, the complainant will be asked to make clear his or her objection to the material; the teacher or librarian will be asked to explain the educational value of the material.
2. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the complainant may file a formal written complaint with the Superintendent of Schools on a form provided for this purpose.
3. Upon receiving a formal written complaint, the Superintendent shall designate an Instructional Review Committee, consisting of an administrator, a librarian, a teacher and a parent of a student enrolled in the district, to investigate and judge the challenged material.
4. The committee shall:
 - a. read and examine the challenged materials;
 - b. consider the specific objections to the material voiced by the complainant;
 - c. weigh the values and faults of the material as a whole;
 - d. consider oral presentations made to the committee, if any;
 - e. where appropriate, solicit advice or opinion from other district faculty and/or relevant professional organizations such as the American Library Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, National Council of Social Studies Teachers; and
 - f. issue a report to the Superintendent containing its recommendations concerning any complaint.
5. The Superintendent shall review the report of the committee, make a decision and notify the complainant and appropriate staff.
6. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision he/she may refer the complaint to the Board. The Superintendent will deliver a copy of his/her decision and the committee's report to the Board for its consideration. The final decision shall be made by the Board.

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

Complaints

The Willsboro Central School Board of Education believes that complaints should be resolved by individuals closest to the concern. District employees (teachers, bus drivers, clerical, etc) should be given every opportunity to resolve a complaint, problem, or issue. Therefore, anyone who has a complaint should address the issue with personnel in the following order:

1. Staff member who is subject of the complaint or closest to the issue
2. Disciplinarian, Supervisor or Department Coordinator
3. Superintendent of Schools
4. Board of Education

The Board expects prompt and considerate treatment by district personnel of all persons making complaints regarding issues in the school district.

If an individual Board Member or an employee of the district, receives a complaint, he/she will refrain from expressing judgment about the complaint and will inform the complainant of this policy and refer complainant to the appropriate staff member or the Superintendent. The Superintendent will refer the person to the appropriate staff member to resolve the issue.

The Board will not permit discussion of individual district personnel in an open public meeting and not until the Superintendent has met with the complainant in an attempt to resolve the issue.

First Reading: March 15, 2006

Adoption: May 4, 2006

PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

While the district's school buildings and grounds are maintained primarily for the purpose of educating students within the district, the Board of Education recognizes that the buildings and grounds are a valuable community resource and believes that this resource should be available to the community for specific uses that will not interfere with educational activities. This policy is intended to identify the uses that community groups may make of those facilities.

The list of permitted uses set forth in the sample policy reflects virtually the entire list contained in Education Law §414, and therefore is as broad as the law allows. The Board should be aware that the broader the list of permitted uses, the more likely it is that the district will face litigation if and when it decides to deny use. As such, the Board should give careful consideration to the issue of permitted uses.

Permitted Uses

District facilities may be used for the purposes listed below, subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in this policy.

- A. Instruction in any branch of education, learning or the arts.
- B. Public library purposes, subject to provisions of the Education Law, or as stations of public libraries.
- C. Social, civic and recreational meetings and entertainments, or other uses pertaining to the welfare of the community so long as such uses are non-exclusive and open to the general public.
- D. Meetings, entertainment and occasions where admission fees are charged, when the proceeds are to be spent for an educational or charitable purpose.
- E. Polling places for holding primaries and elections, for the registration of voters and for holding political meetings.
- F. Civic forums and community centers.
- G. Recreation, physical training and athletics, including competitive athletic contests of children attending a private, nonprofit school.
- H. Child-care programs when school is not in session, or when school is in session for the children of students attending schools of the district and, if there is additional space available, for children of employees of the district.
- I. Graduation exercises held by not-for-profit elementary and secondary schools, provided that no religious service is performed.

Prohibited Uses

Any use not permitted by this policy is prohibited. In addition, the following uses are specifically prohibited.

- A. Meetings sponsored by political organizations.
- B. Meetings, entertainments and occasions that are under the exclusive control of and the proceeds are to be applied for the benefit of a society, association or organization or a religious sect or denomination or of a fraternal, secret or exclusive society or organization, other than veterans' organizations or volunteer fire fighters or volunteer ambulance workers.

Conditions of Use for District Facilities

- A. Use of district facilities may be permitted unless such facilities are in use for school purposes, or during educational programs. The district reserves exclusive and nonreviewable judgment to determine if a requested use would interfere with or disturb the district's educational programs.
- B. To ensure that district facilities are preserved for the benefit of the greater district community, only community based groups and organizations (that is, groups which are located within the geographic area covered by the district) may be granted access to district facilities.
- C. Use of district facilities will be permitted only where the applicant agrees to pay the district a user fee according to a schedule adopted by the district to cover the costs of heat, electricity, maintenance, custodial services and any other expenses associated with the requested use. Use is further conditioned upon the applicant's agreement to pay additional fees associated with the use of any additional services or equipment. The district retains the right to condition use upon an applicant depositing with the district a sum equaling the estimated costs and fees associated with the proposed use 10 days in advance of the requested use. The district retains the further right to waive user fees for groups that are associated with or sponsored by the district.
- D. Where, in the judgment of the district, the requested use of district facilities requires special equipment or supervision, the district reserves the right to deny such use, or in the alternative, to condition such use upon the applicant's payment of additional fees in accordance with paragraph C above. Only personnel authorized by the Superintendent shall operate district equipment.
- D. Use of district facilities will only be permitted where the organization provides the district timely evidence of adequate insurance coverage (\$1,000,000 minimum) to save the district harmless from all liability, property damage, personal injuries and/or medical expenses. The district will exercise complete and unreviewable discretion regarding what constitutes adequate insurance coverage for each proposed use.
- F. The Board reserves the discretion to deny use of district facilities described above, or to terminate use of district facilities:

1. By an applicant who has previously misused or abused district facilities or property or who has violated this policy;
2. For any use which could have the effect of violating the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution or other provisions of the United States or New York State Constitutions; .
3. For any use which, in the estimation of the Board, could reasonably be expected to or actually does give rise to a riot or public disturbance;
4. For any use which the Board deems inconsistent with this policy;
5. For any use by a private for-profit entity that has the direct or indirect effect of promoting the products or services of such entity;
6. In any instance where alcoholic beverages or unlawful drugs are sold, distributed, consumed, promoted or possessed;
7. For any use prohibited by law.
 - a. The number of persons admitted for a function must not exceed room capacity limits.
 - b. Whenever inclement weather or an emergency situation cause the closing of district schools, all after-school functions scheduled for that day will generally be canceled.
 - c. The person in charge of a function must notify persons in attendance. at the beginning of the function, of the procedures to be followed in the case of an emergency.
 - d. In the case of an accident resulting in injury to any person or damage to personal property, the incident must be reported in writing to the Superintendent within a specified after the function.

Application Procedure for Use of District Facilities

- A. All applications for use of school facilities shall be made in writing and submitted to the Superintendent of Schools at least 30 days prior to the date of the requested use. A use permit application is available in the Superintendent's office.
- B. The applicant must clearly and completely described the intended use of the district facility in the application.
- C. All applicants must review this policy prior to submitting the application. All applications must be signed by an authorized agent of the group or organization requesting use. The applicant's signature on the application shall attest to the group or organization's intent to comply with all Board policies and regulations and to use district facilities strictly in accordance with the use described in the application.

- D. All applicants must agree to assume responsibility for all damages resulting from its use of district facilities. Proof of adequate insurance must be provided by the applicant at least 10 days before the date of the requested use.
- E. Permits shall be valid only for the facility, use, dates and time specified in the permit. No adjustment to the permit is allowed except with the prior written approval of the Superintendent. Permits shall not be transferable.
- F. The Superintendent is authorized to alter or cancel any permit if it becomes necessary to use the facility for school purposes or for other justifiable reason.
- G. With regard to scheduling activities, the district retains the right to give preference to groups and organizations which are associated with or sponsored by the district.
- H. Issuance of a permit shall not limit the right of access to the facility by district staff.

Ref: Education Law §414

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

SMOKING AND OTHER TOBACCO USE ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Due to the health hazards associated with smoking, and in accordance with federal and state law, the Board of Education prohibits smoking and all other tobacco use, and use of an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette, in all school district buildings, on school grounds, and in any vehicle used to transport children or personnel. Smoking or tobacco use is also prohibited within 100 feet of all school entrances, exits and outdoor areas, except where that is a residence or residential property. “Electronic cigarette” or “e-cigarette” means an electronic device that delivers vapor which is inhaled by an individual user (including vaporizers, vapor pipes, and vape pens), and shall include any refill, cartridge and any other component of such a device.

The district's smoking policy shall be prominently posted in each building, at designated outdoor locations on school premises (e.g. athletic fields) and in all district vehicles. The Board designates the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee as agent responsible for informing individuals smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes, or using tobacco unlawfully that they are in violation of Article 13-E of the Public Health Law and/or Section 409 of the Education Law and/or the federal Pro-Children Acts of 1994 and 2001. Persons in violation of this policy will be asked to stop. Students and staff may be subject to consequences outlined in the Code of Conduct, and visitors or contractors may be asked to leave school property.

Cross-ref: 5300, Code of Conduct

Ref: Education Law §§409(2)
 Public Health Law Article 13-E
 Public Health Law §§206; 340; 347; 1399-aa
 The Pro-Children Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§7181 *et seq.*
 The Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §§6081 *et seq.*

First Reading: August 8, 2017
Second Reading: September 12, 2017
Adoption date: September 12, 2017

HOME INSTRUCTION

The Board of Education shall ensure that children instructed at home are taught by a competent instructor and receive an education substantially equivalent to that offered in the district's schools.

Parents/Guardians who wish to educate their children at home must submit to the district an individual home instruction plan (IHIP), outlining the educational goals to be met and the course materials and syllabi to be used each year for the child's learning process. The district may accept or deny an IHIP. Parents/Guardians must submit quarterly reports which will provide the district with the necessary information to make determinations of substantial equivalency and competency of instruction on an ongoing basis.

Parents/Guardians may appeal to the Board a determination by the Superintendent of Schools or designee that an IHIP is not in compliance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Parents/Guardians shall have the right to appeal the final determination of the Board to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days of receipt of such determination.

Cross-ref: 5100, Student Attendance

Ref: Education Law §3202(4)
8 NYCRR §100.10
Matter of Abookire, 33 EDR 473 (1994)

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC

It shall be the policy of the district to accept a gift, provided it is made within the statutory authority granted to school districts and has received the approval of the Board of Education.

In granting or withholding its consent, the Board will review the following factors:

1. The terms of the gift must identify:
 - a. the subject of the gift
 - b. the purpose of the gift
 - c. designation or preferences (if any)
 - d. all conditions or restrictions that may apply.
2. The gift must not benefit a particular or named individual or individuals.
3. If the purpose of the gift is an award to a single student, the determination of the recipient of such award shall be made on the basis that all students shall have an equal opportunity to qualify for it and shall not be denied its receipt on the basis of race, religion, sex, or disability.
4. If the gift is in trust, the obligation of the investment and reinvestment of the principal shall be clearly specified and the application of the income or investment proceeds shall be clearly set forth.
5. No gift or trust will be accepted by the Board unless:
 - a. it is in support of and a benefit to all or to a particular public school in the district, or
 - b. it is for a purpose for which the school district could legally expend its own funds, or
 - c. it is for the purpose of awarding scholarships to students graduating from the district.

Any gift rejected by the Board shall be returned to the donor or his/her estate within 60 days together with a statement indicating the reasons for the rejection of such gift.

Ref: Education Law §1709(12)

Adoption date: September 9, 2003

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Board of Education believes that positive parent and family engagement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. Parent and family engagement may take place either in the classroom or during extra-curricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parent and family engagement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework “contracts” between parents, family members and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parent and family engagement.

Title I Parent and Family Engagement- District Level Policy

Consistent with the parent and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and its reauthorization in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child’s education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parent and family engagement procedures, as further required by federal law.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication, involving student academic learning and other school activities.

At a minimum, parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents and family members:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; and
- Are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

The federal definition of the term “parents” refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).

District and school level Title I parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including those who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children).

As further required by federal law, parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the district's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents and family members also will participate in the process for developing either a comprehensive or targeted "support and school improvement plan" when the school their child attends is identified by the State as needing this plan.

Parent and family member participation in development of district wide Title I plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent and family member involvement in the development of the district wide Title I plan:

Development of school level parent and family engagement approaches

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all district schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided coordination, technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. As appropriate to meet individual local needs, the superintendent will:

Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content challenging academic standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work to improve their child's academic achievement such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy). To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:
3. Educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contributions and on how to:
 - reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
 - implement and coordinate parent programs; and

- build ties between parents and the schools.

To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Coordination of parental involvement strategies

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parental involvement strategies adopted in connection with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs. It will do this by:

Review of district wide parent and family engagement policy

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate staff will conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent and family engagement policies necessary for more effective involvement. To facilitate this review, the district will conduct the following activities:

Cross-ref: 4010, Equivalence in Instruction

Ref: 20 USC §§6318(a)(2); 7801(38), Every Student Succeeds Act (§1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
U.S. Department of Education, *Parental Involvement, Title I, Part A, Non-Regulatory Guidance*, April 23, 2004

First Reading: June 13, 2017
Second Reading: June 27, 2017
Adoption date: June 27, 2017

Title I Parent and Family Engagement - School Level Approach

The Willsboro Central School District recognizes that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning. We encourage parents and family members to be actively involved in their child's education at school and to become full partners in school educational planning and operations. Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA):

1. The Building Principal and appropriate staff shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain Title I requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title I program will be invited to the meeting.
2. The school staff shall offer a flexible number of meetings to provide parents the opportunity to meet with school staff and otherwise participate in their child's education. These meetings shall be held at flexible times (e.g., morning or evening) and/or in highly accessible places such as public housing projects, etc.
3. The school will provide parents with timely information about Title I programs. School staff will also describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, the types of academic assessment that will be used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Parents may also request regular meetings with school staff to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their child. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practical.
4. The school staff shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy.

Student Academic Achievement School-Parent Compact

School-Parent Compact

To help our children achieve, we agree to abide by the following conditions during the 2017-2018 school year:

School Responsibilities

The school will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
- Hold parent-teacher conferences during these conferences, this compact will be discussed as it relates to your child's academic achievement;
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress;
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff; and
- Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities.
- Ensure regular two-way, communication between parents and family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents and family members can understand

Parents' Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- *Monitor my child's attendance;*
- *Make sure that homework is completed;*

Policy #1900-E.2

- *Limit amount of television my child watches;*
- Volunteer in my child's school;
- Participate in decisions regarding my children's education;
- Promote positive use of my child's extracurricular time; and
- Stay informed about my child's education and communicate with the school regularly.

Student Responsibilities

As a student, I will share the responsibility to improve my grades, and agree to:

- Do homework every day and ask for help when needed;
- Read at least 20 minutes a day outside of school; and
- Give to my parents all notices and information received by me from my school every day.

School

Parent

Student

Date

Date

Date

INTERPRETERS FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED PARENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that those district parents with hearing impairments which prevent a meaningful participation in their child's educational program must be afforded an opportunity equal to that afforded other parents to participate in meetings or activities pertaining to the academic and/or disciplinary aspects of their child's education. Accordingly, and pursuant to law, the school district will provide an interpreter for hearing-impaired parents for school-initiated academic and/or disciplinary meetings or activities including, but not limited to:

- Parent/teacher conferences
- Child/study or building level team meetings
- Planning meetings with school counselors regarding educational progress
- Career planning
- Suspension hearings or other conference with school officials relating to disciplinary actions

The school district will provide an interpreter for the hearing-impaired parent if a written request for the service has been submitted to and received by the district within 10 working days prior to the scheduled meeting or activity. If an interpreter is unavailable, the district will then make other reasonable accommodations which are satisfactory to the parents (e.g., notetaker, transcript, decoder, or telecommunication device for the deaf). These services will be made available by the district at no cost to the parents.

The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to maintain a list of available interpreters and to develop procedures to notify parents of the availability of interpreter services, the time limitation for requesting these services, and of the requirement to make other reasonable accommodations satisfactory to the parents should an interpreter not be available.

Hearing-impaired parents are requested to submit the attached form to request accommodation of their disability.

Ref: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§12131-12134
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794
Education Law §3230
8 NYCRR §100.2(aa)
Rothschild v. Grottenthaler, 907 F.2d 286 (2d Cir. 1990)

Adoption date: September 9, 2003