

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT AND VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM

COMMUNITY
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Rights of Parents

9240 RIGHTS OF PARENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child are ultimately responsible for the care and custody of that child, and that both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) share that responsibility equally. The Board recognizes as well that, where only one parent has legal custody of a child, the rights and responsibilities of the other parent may be limited. The Board believes that the interests of the child are best served by the continuing involvement of both parents in the child's life and well-being.

The Board will presume that each natural or adoptive parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil enrolled in this district possesses full parental rights of access to the pupil and to information about the pupil, notwithstanding any separation of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or dissolution of their marriage. Accordingly, and in the absence of notice to the contrary, the Board directs that school administrators accommodate the needs of both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for access to their child, to their child's teachers, and to information about their child.

Every parent, except as prohibited by federal and state law, shall have access to records and information pertaining to his/her unemancipated child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, insurance, child care and educational records, whether or not the child resides with the parent, unless that access is found by the court to be not in the best interest of the child or the access is found by the court to be sought for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent.

The place of residence of either parent shall not appear on any records or information released pursuant to the provisions of this section.

A child's parent(s), guardian(s) or legal custodian(s) may petition the court to have a parent's access to the records limited. If the court, after a hearing, finds that the parent's access to the record is not in the best interest of the child or that the access sought is for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent, the court may order that access to the records be limited. Proper notice of court action consists of the custodial parent's sworn affidavit or certification supported by a copy of the pertinent portion of a legal agreement or court order that awards custody and establishes the rights and limitation of the noncustodial parent or terminates the parental rights of the noncustodial parent.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting in any way the rights of the noncustodial parent whose parental rights have not been terminated to full access to his/her child's records.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq.; 18A:47-4; 18A:47-8
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3; 6A:14-2.9; 6A:32-7.1; 6A:32-7.5

Adopted: 15 December 2009



POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES
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Parental Responsibilities

9230 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education believes that children benefit when parent(s) or legal guardian(s) recognize and discharge a responsibility to encourage and support the learning process.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can help children learn by:

1. Requiring that children obey all school rules and by accepting responsibility for a child's improper conduct;
2. Sending children to school with proper attention to health, personal cleanliness, and dress;
3. Maintaining an active interest in each child's daily work and making it possible for the child to complete assigned homework by providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study;
4. Reading communications from the school and signing and returning them promptly when so requested;
5. Attending conferences arranged for the exchange of information on the child's progress in school; and
6. Scheduling family matters, including vacations, to minimize interference with school time.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



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BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES
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Cooperation Between Parents and School

9200 COOPERATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL

The Board of Education believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility that the Board shares with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

It is the position of the Board that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) bear the ultimate responsibility for their children's in-school behavior, including the behavior of pupils who have reached the legal age of majority, but are still for all practical purposes under parental authority.

The Board directs that cooperation be encouraged by parent-teacher conferences that permit two-way communication between home and school; open houses in district schools that provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and observe the program on a first hand basis; meetings of staff members and groups of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of those pupils having special abilities, needs, or problems; and special events of a cultural, ethnic, or topical nature, which are initiated by parent groups, involve the cooperative effort of pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and are of general interest to the schools or community.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES
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Parent Conferences

9280 PARENT CONFERENCES

The Board of Education endorses the parent-teacher conference as an effective means of permitting parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and teachers to share information about pupils and the educational program in a constructive setting.

The Superintendent is directed to schedule parent-teacher conferences at such times as will permit the maximum attendance of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), including working parent(s) or legal guardian(s); to encourage the participation of parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and to provide in-service training to teachers to assist them in making most effective use of the conference. Teachers may also schedule individual parent conferences throughout the school year to discuss pupil progress.

The Board believes that the information exchanged in parent-teacher conferences can be of great importance to the pupil's ability to profit educationally; such conferences are, therefore, an essential part of the instructional program and an integral part of a teacher's professional responsibility. Accordingly, all teachers are required to attend the parent conferences scheduled for the children assigned to them. A teacher's failure to observe this policy may be cause for discipline.

The Board regards parent-teacher conferences as non-adversarial meetings in which all persons present are united in a common interest in the educational well-being of the pupil. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the pupil may bring to the conference additional persons who share that interest and wish to aid the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the teacher. When a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) desires the representation of legal counsel at the conference, however, the Board may wish to be similarly represented. Accordingly, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who plans to bring legal counsel to a parent-teacher conference shall notify the school Principal of that intention no later than five working days in advance of the conference in order that the Superintendent may secure such legal representation as he/she may deem advisable.

The purposes of the parent-teacher conference are best served when all persons present share freely and candidly their knowledge of the pupil's educational progress and information relating to that progress. Any person present may make and preserve notes, for his/her benefit, of the information shared and may, if permitted, make a tape recording of the conference as an aid to memory or to share with an absent parent or legal guardian. Because the presence of the tape recorder may act to impede the free exchange necessary to an effective conference, however, either the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or the teacher may refuse the other's request that a tape recorder be used.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES
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School Volunteers

9180 SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Education recognizes that the services of community volunteers can enrich the educational program, assist teaching staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. The Board directs the institution of a program for the utilization of volunteer services for all programs.

The Building Principal shall be responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteers, may delegate the assignment of volunteers to specific tasks and must submit their names for Board approval.

Volunteers must be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity.

Neither the Superintendent nor any Principal shall be obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of pupils.

The following guidelines shall govern the service of school volunteers:

1. Volunteers may serve only under the direction and supervision of a certificated staff member;
2. Volunteers should clearly understand their duties and responsibilities and perform no service outside those duties;
3. Volunteers serve only in a support capacity; only teaching staff members are responsible for educational planning and decisions and the teaching of new concepts;
4. Volunteers shall respect the individuality, dignity, and worth of each child;
5. Volunteers are not permitted access to pupil records;
6. Volunteers should exercise discretion in discussing their school activities with others in the community;
7. Volunteers may consult with the Principal regarding their duties and responsibilities;
8. Volunteers shall receive no financial remuneration from the Board.

