

Community Relations

Media Access to Students

The Board recognizes the important role the media serves in reporting information about the district's program, services and activities. Therefore, the district will make every reasonable effort to provide media access to students.

School administrators shall be authorized to grant permission and set parameters for media access to students in their respective schools in order to protect the students' privacy rights under state and federal law. The media may interview and photograph students involved in instructional programs and school activities including public athletic events or other activities open to and attended by the general public provided their presence will not be unduly disruptive and shall comply with Board policies and district goals.

Media representatives shall be required to report to the administration for prior approval before accessing students involved in instructional programs and activities not attended by the general public.

Media representatives wishing to photograph or identify particular students, or otherwise publish or disclose personally identifiable information regarding such students, must obtain parental or guardian approval as well. Such permission shall not be required before photographs, recordings, and/or articles referring to students involved in public athletic events or other activities open to and attended by the general public may be published.

Parents who do not want their student interviewed, photographed or videotaped by the media shall inform the school Principal accordingly.

Information obtained by media representatives directly from students does not require parental approval prior to publication by the media. Parents who do not want their student interviewed or photographed by the media may direct their student accordingly.

District employees may release student information to the media only in accordance with applicable provisions of the education records law and Board policies governing directory information and personally identifiable information.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records; Confidentiality)

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Media Access to Students (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
1-210 Access to public records. Exempt records.
10-209 Records not to be public. Provision of reports to schools.
Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Sec. 438, 20 U.S.C. Sec 1232g (1988).
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec 1400 et seq.

Policy adopted: May 7, 2001
Policy revised: June 9, 2009
Policy reviewed: October 15, 2013
Policy revised: August 21, 2018

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut