

**Community Relations**  
**Relations Between Public and School Personnel**  
**Conduct on School Property**

The Board of Education expects mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among all individuals on school property or at school events. District staff will treat parents and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The Board is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering school/district grounds.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among Board members, district employees, parents and the public. It is not intended to deprive any individual of his/her right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free environment for students and staff.

In the interest of presenting Board members and District employees as positive role models to the students as well *as* to the community, the Board encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The Board seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

Based upon the above, the Board expects that no person on school property or at a school event shall:

1. Injure, threaten, harass or intimidate a staff member, Board member or any other person;
2. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
3. Damage or deface District property;
4. Violate any Connecticut law or town/city ordinance;
5. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;
6. Consume, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, or possess dangerous instruments or weapons;
7. Impede, delay, or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the District's educational program or any other activity occurring on school property;
8. Enter upon any portion of the school premises at any time for purposes other than those which are lawful and authorized by the Board;
9. Operate a motor vehicle in a risky manner or in violation of an authorized District employee's directive; or
10. Violate other District policies or regulations or an authorized District employee's directive.

**Community Relations**  
**Public Performances by Students**

The board of education recognizes that worthy educational values may be served by pupil participation in civic and community affairs. Instructors shall be encouraged to allow students to participate in public performances when such participation contributes to the educational process and objectives of that particular class and when it does not interfere unduly with other classes or activities within the school.

School groups may, with the permission of the principal, participate in local public events, which fall into the following classifications:

1. Events sponsored by the schools. Educational events in which the schools serve as hosts shall have priority in scheduling appearances.
2. Community functions organized in the interests of the school such as those that might be originated by the parent-teacher groups or other parent groups.
3. Non-commercial civic occasions of community, county, state or national interest of sufficient breadth to enlist general sympathy and cooperation.
4. Events that is primarily patriotic in nature, such as Veteran's Day.
5. Charity benefit activities provided such activity has been specifically approved in advance by the superintendent.
6. Programs sponsored by established character-building agencies, or programs sponsored jointly by the school system and mass communication media where the time or space given to the programs are of a public nature.

School groups may not participate in events that fall into any of the following classifications:

1. Events that are for the purpose of private gain or for the advertising of any commercial project or product. A school name, the names of school-sponsored groups or school equipment shall not be exploited in events of a commercial nature.
2. Events that are for the furtherance of any politically partisan interest. In questionable cases, the matter shall be referred to the board of education.
3. Events that are primarily for the furtherance of any religious concern, whether sectarian or non-sectarian in nature.
4. Events that cause undue amount of interference with the regular school program, or that cause an excessive amount of absence due to rehearsal or preparation.

**Community Relations Use of Students**

All requests from groups or individuals to have students distribute materials to people in the community, with the exception of requests from school-connected organizations like parent-teacher organizations or board appointed citizens' ad hoc advisory committees, will be referred to the office of the superintendent to determine whether the requests comply with overall school purpose and policy.

(cf. 1324 - Soliciting Funds from and by Students) (cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

Regulation  
approved: 12/18/84

NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norwich, Connecticut

Policy  
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