

Community Relations

News Media Access to Students

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes the important role the news media serves in reporting information about the District's programs, services and activities. Therefore, the District will make every reasonable effort to provide news media access to students.

School administrators shall be authorized to grant permission and set parameters for media access to students in their respective schools. News media personnel may interview and photograph students involved in instructional programs and school activities including athletic events provided their presence will not be unduly disruptive and shall comply with Board policies and District goals.

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

Parental Permission

Parents who do not want their student interviewed, photographed or videotaped by the news media shall inform the building administrator in writing regarding such decision. Permission shall not be required before photographs, videotapes, and/or articles referring to students involved in athletic events may be published.

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

Protection of Student Privacy Rights

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

Notification

Parents will be advised of the District's policy on news media access to students at the time of the student's registration and each Fall in the student/parent handbook.

Building administrators shall inform the Superintendent any time news media personnel are present at the schools; such notification shall include the stated purpose of the news media visit.

Related Policies:

1110 – Communications with the Public

1112 – News Media Relationships

1340 – Access to School Procedures, Materials and Records

5125 – Student Records – Confidentiality

5145.13 – Student Surveys

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

1-200. Definitions.

1-210. Access to public records. Exempt records.

Title 20, United States Code, Section 1232g – Family Educational and Privacy Rights

Title 20, United States Code, Section 1232h – Protection of Pupil Rights

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut