

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: 1000
CATEGORY: Community Relations
POLICY CODE: 1112.5/Media Access to
Students

MEDIA ACCESS TO STUDENTS

Policy Statement

The Board recognizes the important role the media serves in reporting information about the District's program, services, and activities.

Building administrators shall be authorized to grant permission and set parameters for media access to students in their respective schools consistent with this policy. Building administrators shall inform the Superintendent any time media representatives are present at the schools. Such notification shall include the stated purposes of the media representatives.

Before accessing students involved in instructional programs and activities not attended by the general public, media representatives shall be required to report to an administrator for prior approval. For activities attended by the general public, including school athletic and performing arts events, permission shall not generally be required. Media representatives shall provide appropriate identification to a building or District administrator, if requested, prior to access.

The media may interview, photograph, and/or videotape students involved in instructional programs and school activities, including school athletic and performing arts events, if authorized by a building or District administrator, provided that the media's presence will not be disruptive. If, in the judgment of the administration, the presence of any media representative(s) causes a disruption to the orderly conduct of the instructional program or school activity, access by such representative(s) may be limited to the extent necessary to remove the disruption, which could include denial of media access.

Media representatives wishing to photograph, videotape, or identify any particular student must obtain the permission of the parent or guardian of that student prior to publication. Such permission shall not be required prior to the publication of photographs, videotapes, and/or articles referring to students involved in athletic and performing arts events.

District employees may release student information to the media only in accordance with applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and with District Policy 5125, Confidentiality and Maintenance of Student Records.

Notice of this policy shall be given annually to parents/guardians. The school shall allow a reasonable period of time after such notice has been given for a parent or guardian to inform the school principal that he/she does not wish his/her child interviewed, photographed, or videotaped by the media, in which case the child will not be interviewed, photographed, or videotaped by the media under any circumstances.

Adopted: 3/28/2017

References

- The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- Connecticut General Statutes §§ 1-213, 10-209
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5125: Confidentiality and Maintenance of Student Records