

### Community Relations

#### Visits to the Schools and Observations in Schools

The Waterford Board of Education (the “Board”) wishes to provide a means by which members of the community, parents and other interested persons may visit the schools. While welcoming and encouraging school visitation, school safety and the uninterrupted operation of the educational program remain our priority. Accordingly, in order to promote a safe and productive educational environment for all students and staff, the Board requires all visitors to receive prior approval from the school Principal or his/her designee before being permitted to visit any school building. The Board, through the administration, reserves the right to limit visits in accordance with administrative regulations.

The Board further desires to work collaboratively with parents with an educational nexus with the district, its educational programs or the student being observed, to observe their students in their current classrooms or observe proposed educational placements in the Board’s schools. The Board, through the administration, reserves the right to limit observations of current and proposed educational placements in accordance with administrative regulations and the Board’s Guidelines for Independent Educational Evaluations.

Upon arrival, all visitors and observers must comply with any and all applicable building security procedures, including but not limited to utilizing security buzzers for access, complying with requests for photo identification, reporting directly to and signing in and out at the visitors’ reception area of the school office, prominently displaying visitors’ badges or other identification required for visitors to the school buildings, limiting access to those areas of the buildings and grounds for which the visitors/observers have authorized access, and complying with directives of school officials at all times. All visitors and observers permitted into school buildings or on school grounds must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including any health screening protocols. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board may limit or restrict visitors based on the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities.

Although Board members are encouraged to visit schools independently, they have authority only in regularly called meetings of the Board of Education, or when delegated specific tasks by Board of Education action.

#### Legal References:

“Guidelines Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense and In-School Observations,” Connecticut State Department of Education (Mar. 28, 2018).

“Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together,” Connecticut State Department of Education (June 29, 2020), available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/CTReopeningSchools.pdf>.

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WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Waterford, Connecticut