

VISITS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, DIGNITARIES AND CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES AND SCHOOL BOARD FACILITIES

The School Board of Broward County is a favorite site for elected officials, visiting dignitaries and aspiring politicians. Policymakers are welcome to our school system, however, we must also protect the integrity of the learning environment.

Authority F.S. 230.22 (1) (2)
Policy Adopted 5/1/01

RULES

1. All visits by elected officials or candidates for national office must be cleared by the Superintendent via the Department of Community Relations. This would include, but not be limited to, President, Vice President, Senators, House of Representatives -- or their respective spouses. Once cleared by the Superintendent, the Department of Community Relations will contact the appropriate Area/Associate Superintendent's office to coordinate the visit. Rules 5-8 should be followed.
2. All visits by representatives of the United States executive branch must be cleared by the Superintendent via the Department of Community Relations. For example: Secretary of State, Secretary of Education, etc. Once cleared by the Superintendent, the Department of Community Relations will contact the appropriate Area/Associate Superintendent's office to coordinate the visit. Rules 5-8 should be followed.
3. All visits by Florida government officials or their respective spouses must be cleared by the Superintendent via the Department of Community Relations. Once cleared by the Superintendent, the Department of Community Relations will contact the appropriate Area/Associate Superintendent's office to coordinate the visit. Rules 5-8 should be followed.
4. All candidates and elected officials representing local constituencies or their respective spouses should follow rules 5-8. The Area Superintendent's' offices and Department of Community Relations should be notified immediately at the onset of planning.
5. While elected officials are encouraged to visit, it is the intent of this policy to prohibit political activities and/or campaigning by candidates on school campuses or in School Board facilities. This includes the distribution of campaign materials, the display of campaign posters or other paraphernalia or the presence of a candidate on campus for campaign purposes. The only exception is when a recognized group rents a facility after school hours for such a purpose. On Election Day, however, the School Board follows the county election law referencing voting polls.
6. Plan the visit carefully in terms of time and location so that there is as little disruption to student learning as possible.
7. An entourage of media should not accompany guests visiting during school hours. Prior to the visit, clarify with your guest that any media photo opportunity or briefing scheduled during the school day must take place off campus. All exceptions must be approved through the Superintendent's office.

8. Principals who have already had a dignitary visit during the current school year, should direct potential visitors to a school similar to theirs, rather than hosting another visit. Provide school names and principals' telephone numbers.
9. Information regarding public or elected officials' participation in high school graduation functions is addressed in Policy 5313 Protocol for High School Graduation and Senior Activities, Rules (1), (2) and (7).
10. Parents or relatives of students in Broward County Public Schools, who also happen to be elected officials, will not be precluded as individuals from visiting the schools or participating in school functions in the capacity of parent or relative.
11. The District's internal electronic system, pony system and mailboxes will not be used in any capacity to communicate employee opinions or interests on behalf of any political candidate or issue. For appropriate use of technology, see School Board Policy 5306 School and District Technology Usage [(6) Acceptable Use of Computer Network and Online Telecommunication].

Adopted 5/1/01