

## Community Relations

### Media Access to Students

Schools are public institutions serving the educational needs of the community. Therefore, it is important that information be disseminated concerning programs, activities, and significant school events. The Orange Board recognizes the important role the media serves in reporting information about the District's program, services and activities. Therefore, the District will make reasonable efforts to provide media access to students.

To ensure that publicity is coordinated with a common effort and purpose, the following shall be followed with news media:

1. Media representatives shall report to the administration for prior approval before accessing students involved in instructional programs, events, and activities not attended by the general public.
2. School administrators are authorized to grant permission and set parameters for media access to students in their respective schools.
3. If, in the judgment of the administration, the presence of any photographer, broadcaster, or news journalist causes such disruption that orderly conduct of the activity becomes unfeasible, access by these individuals may be limited to the extent necessary to remove disruption.
4. Only news media personnel employed by a newspaper, radio or television broadcasting company assigned to cover the activity shall be permitted to photograph, broadcast, or record such activity.
5. Media representatives shall not identify particular students without first obtaining parental or guardian approval as well as school administrator permission.
6. Parents will annually be given the opportunity to sign a form stating they do not want their student interviewed, photographed or videotaped by the media. Parents who do not want their student interviewed or photographed by the media should direct their child accordingly. Parents will be advised of the district's 'media access to students' policy at the time of the student's registration and each fall in the student/parent handbook.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-226 Recording, broadcasting or photographing meetings

Policy adopted: April 15, 2013