

School/Community RelationsCivility PolicyPreamble

The Weston Board of Education (“the Board”) recognizes that education of children is a process that involves a partnership between a child’s parents/guardians, teachers, school administrators, and other school and Board personnel. The Board recognizes that parental/guardian participation in their child’s educational process through parent/guardian/teacher conferences, scheduled classroom visitation, serving as a school volunteer, serving as a field trip chaperone, PTO participation, and other such service is critical to a child’s educational success. For that reason, the Board welcomes and encourages parental participation in the life of their child’s school and the District as a whole.

It is the intent of the Board to promote mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among District employees, students, parents/guardians, and the public. It is not the intent of the Board to deprive any person of his or her right to freedom of expression. The intent of this Policy is to maintain, to the greatest extent reasonably possible, a safe, harassment-free workplace for teachers, students, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, and other members of the community. In the interest of presenting teachers and other District employees as positive role models, the Board encourages positive communication and discourages disruptive, volatile, hostile, or aggressive communications or actions.

However, from time to time parents/guardians, visitors to the District, and District employees act in a manner that disrupts the educational process, the work of District employees, or school activities. This type of conduct can be threatening and/or intimidating to students, District employees, parents/guardians, and visitors.

The purpose of this policy is to provide rules of conduct for parents, other visitors to schools, and District employees which encourage civil communication between parents, other persons, and District employees, and to empower the Board to identify and address those behaviors which are inappropriate and disruptive to the operation of a school or other District facility.

I. CONDUCT

1. Expected Level of Behavior:

- a. District employees will treat colleagues, parents/guardians, students, and other members of the public with courtesy and respect.
- b. Parents and other visitors to schools and school District facilities will treat teachers, students, school administrators, and other District employees with courtesy and respect.

2. Unacceptable/Disruptive Behavior:

a. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

1. Behavior which interferes with or threatens to interfere with the educational process, the operation of a classroom, an employee's office or office area, an activity occurring anywhere on District property, or the work of a District employee. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. Using loud and/or offensive language, profane/obscene language, intimidating language, or display of temper;
 - ii. Threatening to do bodily harm (or causing bodily harm) to a District employee, Board member, a parent/guardian, student, or other individual if that individual is on District property or participating in a school activity, regardless of whether or not the behavior constitutes or may constitute a criminal violation;
 - iii. Damaging or destroying District property;
 - iv. Any other behavior that disrupts the work of a District employee or the orderly operation of a school, a school classroom, any other Board of Education facility; or other activity on District property;
 - v. Abusive, threatening, or obscene emails, texts, voice mail messages, or other communications; or
 - vi. The repeated use of emails, voicemails, or other communications intending to harass the recipient will be considered unacceptable/disruptive behavior under this Policy.

II. RECOURSE

1. Parent/Guardian/Visitor Recourse:

Any parent/guardian or visitor who believes he/she was subject to unacceptable/disruptive behavior on the part of a staff member should bring such behavior to the attention of the staff member's immediate supervisor, appropriate school administrator, and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

2. Employee Recourse:

Any District employee who believes he/she was subject to unacceptable/disruptive behavior by another staff member, parent/guardian, or visitor should notify his/her immediate supervisor, appropriate school administrator, and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting, and/or demeaning manner, the employee to whom the remarks are directed shall calmly and politely warn the speaker to communicate civilly. If the conduct continues, the employee to whom the remarks are directed may, after giving appropriate notice to the speaker, terminate the meeting, conference, or telephone conversation. If the meeting or conference is on District property, any employee may request that an administrator or other authorized personnel direct the speaker to promptly leave the premises. If the person refuses to leave the premises as directed, the administrator or other authorized personnel shall seek the assistance of law enforcement and request that law enforcement take such action as is deemed necessary. If the employee is threatened with personal harm, the employee may contact law enforcement directly.

3. Student Recourse:

Any student who believes he/she was subject to unacceptable/disruptive behavior on the part of a staff member, parent/guardian, or visitor should bring such behavior to the attention of a teacher, guidance counselor or school administrator.

III. AUTHORITY OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

1. Any individual who: (1) disrupts or threatens to disrupt school or school District operations; (2) threatens to or attempts to do or does physical harm to school board personnel, students, or others lawfully on District property; (3) threatens the health or safety of students, Board personnel, or others lawfully on District property; (4) intentionally causes damage to Board property, or property of others lawfully on District property; (5) uses loud or offensive language; or (6) who without authorization comes on District property may be directed to leave District property by a school's principal or assistant principal (or in their absence a person who is lawfully in charge of the school), or a District level administrator. If the person refuses to leave the premises as directed, the administrator or other authorized personnel shall seek the assistance of law enforcement and request that law enforcement take such action as is deemed necessary by law enforcement.
2. If an employee is threatened with personal harm, the employee may contact law enforcement directly.

IV. ABUSIVE, THREATENING, OR OBSCENE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND VOICE MAIL

If any District employee receives an email, voice mail message, other electronic communication which is abusive, threatening, or obscene, the employee is not obligated to respond to the communication or return the telephone call. The employee may save the

message and contact a school administrator or the Superintendent of Schools. If the message threatens personal harm, the employee may contact law enforcement directly.

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WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut