

AP 417 – Community Involvement in Schools

Purpose

The purpose of this administrative procedure is to encourage community involvement in schools while also ensuring that the District's statutory responsibilities are met with respect to employee and student safety.

Objective

The Board recognizes that parent, family and community voluntary participation in local schools is vital to student success. Therefore, this school district encourage involvement of parents, families, advocates for children and the community in the providing voluntary services for students, while respecting employee group contractual obligations and section 26.1 of the *School Act*, ensuring a healthy and safe environment and focusing on the best outcomes for students.

Definitions

Advocate – is an individual or individuals who assist a parent in navigating process in the school system.

Parent – is defined by the *School Act* as a parent or other person who has guardianship or custody of the student or child, other than a parent or person who, under an agreement or order made under the [Family Law Act](#) that allocates parental responsibilities, does not have parental responsibilities in relation to the student's or child's education, or a person who usually has the care and control of the student or child.

Section 177 – The section of the *School Act* that permits certain District staff to exclude individuals from District property where they are determined to have disrupted or interrupted the proceedings of a school.

Volunteer – is an individual subject to AP 310 – Volunteers within the District.

Process

Parents

Parents are encouraged to participate in schools and may volunteer pursuant to section 7.1 of the *School Act* and AP 310 may volunteer in schools. In the event that a parent is excluded from a school they are entitled to access the appeal process under AP 325 – Formal Complaints and Appeals.

Advocates

Advocates are encouraged to support parents as applicable. Advocates are expected to follow District requirements with respect to advocates (hyperlinked). The District may exclude advocates at its discretion in the event that the advocates where school staff do not feel safe or where advocates are interfering

with the best interests of students. Such an exclusion will be issued by the Superintendent and may be reviewed at the request of the excluded party after one (1) year.

Volunteers

Volunteers are encouraged to participate in school and district activities to enhance opportunities for students. Volunteers must follow the procedures as set out in AP 325. The District may exclude at its discretion a volunteer in the event that staff or students feel unsafe or the volunteer fails to follow the requirements of AP 325. Such an exclusion will be issued by the Superintendent and may be reviewed at the request of the of excluded party after one (1) year.

Section 177 Exclusions

Despite this AP, in emergent circumstances an individual may be excluded by applicable staff pursuant to section 177 of the *School Act*.

Adopted: September 10, 1980
Amended: October 28, 1998
Amended: October 12, 2022