

Instruction

Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)

The Board of Education recognizes the staff's need to collect input from students and parents in order to assist decision-making related to curriculum and instruction, program development and operations. To this end, the Board supports the use of appropriate surveys in accordance with the guidelines contained within this policy.

Administrators, teachers, other staff members and the Board of Education may use surveys for many purposes. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to, the need for student services, the determination of prevailing views pertaining to proposed policies and/or practices, or the determination of student knowledge and/or attitudes related, to a specific subject or units. These are examples of surveys and not intended to be an all-inclusive listing. Administrative approval is required for surveys. Responses will not be used in any identifying manner.

Surveys used in any experimental program or research project will be subject to the requirements of Policy 6141.11. Parents shall have the right to inspect all instructional material that will be used for a survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of a federal program.

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| Note: The term "survey" includes an evaluation. |
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Prior to administering a survey, the Board of Education must approve all those that are received by the Superintendent that include reference to any of the factors listed below. In addition, no student may, without parental consent, take part in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program); or
8. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.

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Surveys conducted for other agencies, organizations or individuals must have the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the approval of the Board of Education as to content and purpose. The results of such approved surveys must be shared with the Board of Education.

Parents/guardians shall have the right to inspect, upon their request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Such requests shall be made in writing with a response to be at least two weeks in advance of any survey to be given.

Overall survey results following decisions must be shared with all parties who request such information.

Parents/guardians shall be notified at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, of this policy and when enrolling students for the first time in district schools. This notification must explain that parent/guardians, or students 18 or older, have the right to “opt the student out of participation,” in writing, in the following activities:

1. The collection, disclosure and use of personal information gathered from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to students, such as:
 - a. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
 - b. Book clubs, magazines and programs providing access to low-cost literary products;
 - c. Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools;
 - d. Tests and assessments used by schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude or achievement information about students;
 - e. Student recognition programs; and
 - f. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities or education-related activities.
2. The administration of any survey that delves into the restricted sensitive subject areas identified and listed above; or
3. The administration of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school not necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other students and not otherwise permitted or required by state law.

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Surveys of Students (Student Privacy) (continued)

Note: *The term “invasive physical examination” means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision or scoliosis screening.*

The term “personal information” means individually identifiable information including a student’s or parent’s name, address, telephone number, or social security number.

Parents/guardians of a student shall also have the right to inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Note: *The term “instructional material” means instructional material that is provided to a student, regardless of format including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). It does not include academic tests or academic assessments.*

(cf. 6141.11 - Curriculum Research/Experimental Projects)

(cf. 6161 – Equipment, Books and Materials: Provision/Selection)

(cf. 6161.1 – Evaluation/Selection of Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6161.12 – Reconsideration of Materials)

Legal Reference: P.L. 103-227 Section 1017 (which amends Section 439 of the General Education Provisions Act)

P.L. 107-110, (HR 1-“Leave No Child Behind”) § 1061/1062 – Student Privacy, Parental Access to Information, and Administration of Certain Physical Examinations to Minors. (20 U.S.C. §1232h)

Regulation 34 CFR Part 99

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THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut