

The board of education of Gage County School District No. 34 recognizes the importance of parental and community involvement in the education of the youth of this school district. All school district patrons, including parents and guardians, are encouraged to visit school, monitor classes, attend school assemblies, and attend all other school functions so as to gain an understanding of the operation of the school. Anyone planning to visit a class or a school assembly should contact the teacher prior to the visitation to determine if the class activity for a particular time would be favorable for a person to observe or if there is adequate space for those attending. (Example: It may be distracting to students if visitors attend class during an examination or the class could be participating in an activity outside of the class room or away from the school.)

From time to time the board of education shall request school district patrons, including parents and guardians, to serve on committees to advise the board of education or school officials concerning school activities, the selection of textbooks, library materials, or other material which may be used in supporting the educational process. Refer to Policy 1210.1, Citizens' Advisory Councils and Committees.

The superintendent of schools, or his or her designee, shall notify the parents or guardian prior to the administration of any survey involving their child. Information shall be given as to the nature of the survey, the date and time when the survey shall be administered, and the purpose of the survey. Any parent or guardian who, after observing the survey instrument, may request in writing that his or her child be exempt from the survey. Such requests shall be honored.

Parents and guardians shall have the right to review all files relating to their child, including test scores. Student files may be viewed in the presence of the individual responsible for maintaining those files. Nothing shall be removed from student files without the authorization of the appropriate administrator. Refer to Policy 5205, Confidentiality of Records.

School officials shall notify the parents or guardian when any student may be subjected to a standard norm referenced or a standardized test such as, but not limited to the Iowa Test of Basic Skills or California Achievement Test. Information shall be given as to where these tests may be reviewed and when they will be administered. Parents and guardians may review any standardized tests prior to the administering of these tests to the students. Contact should be made with the principal or school guidance counselor to review these tests. Parents or guardians may not review examinations associated with student skill development of subject matter mastery prior to the administering of these exams if these exams are directly related to day-to-day assignments. However, these may be reviewed after the exam has been administered. Refer to Policy 6420, Examinations and Testing.

Examinations and Testing.

The school district shall not participate in any experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments, or any testing which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy rights of any student, parent, or guardian unless the parent or guardian request, in writing, that such test be given or unless permission is received from the parent or guardian prior to administering such test.

Parents or guardians may request that a child be excused from participating in a specific class activity, from taking a specific test, or from other school experiences. Such requests must be made in writing and should state the rationale for the request and indicate the length of time the child should be withheld from the specific activity. The parent or guardian is encouraged to visit with the child's teacher and/or the principal to discuss the rationale for the request. If the request involves a medical condition of the child, the school reserves the right to request a statement from a physician.

Anyone having a concern relating to the operation of the school is encouraged to visit with the child's teacher and/or the principal. Patrons, including parents or guardians, may submit formal complaints about the instructional materials as set forth in AR-6415, Request For Reconsideration of Media.

Any patron, including a parent or guardian, having a complaint concerning an employee of the school district should first attempt to resolve any differences by visiting with that employee. If the differences cannot be resolved, the patron should visit with that employee's supervisor. The supervisor shall then determine if a formal, written complaint should be filed. Refer to AR-1210, Request to Review Personnel Action. Due to the potential of introducing bias into future hearings, complaints involving school personnel will be received by the board of education through the superintendent of schools.

The board of education shall review this policy annually. If any amendments are made, a public hearing will be held to solicit input from parents and the public.

Legal Reference:	§79-530 Through §79-533	Parental Involvement, Legislative Findings, Public School District, Adopt Policy, Involvement, Contents, Hearing, Review.
------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------