

R9150.1 CLASSROOM OBSERVATION BY PROFESSIONAL AT THE REQUEST OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of minimizing disruption of classroom instruction but also is aware that there are times when a parent or guardian may be legally entitled to have an outside professional consultant visit and observe a child's school program. Therefore, the Principal may grant permission to a parent/guardian to have a consultant observe a particular class, when in the judgment of the Principal, the request is legally appropriate and presents only a minimal disruption to the educational process.

An *outside* professional hired by the parent/guardian may be granted access by the Principal to conduct a classroom observation provided a written request from the parents/guardians is submitted, in advance, stating the purpose of the visit and a copy of the professional's resume is attached. If approved, the Principal will notify the parents/guardians in writing.

If a student being observed has an IEP, the request to observe must be sent to both the Principal and the Office of Special Program. Once both parties have approved the observation, in writing, it may be conducted.

As a general rule, classroom observations shall be limited in duration to one and a half hours or two separate 45-minute observations. The Principal and Director of Special Programs may jointly approve lengthier or more frequent observations when it is determined, in consultation with the District's legal counsel, that unique circumstances legally require such approval. Any individual conducting a classroom observation shall be accompanied by an administrator or his/her designee.

In the case of a proposed placement of a special needs student, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.1(k), the District Board of Education shall provide the parent/guardian with the opportunity to observe the proposed educational placement prior to implementation of the IEP.

If a request for a classroom observation is denied by the Principal or the Office of Special Programs, parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final.

Adopted: 27 August 2018

