

## **RELATIONS WITH THE NEWS MEDIA REGULATIONS**

### **Access**

Any request to interview, film, videotape, photograph, or otherwise record students or district personnel on district property or at a school-sponsored event shall be submitted to Superintendent for approval. Requests may be made by telephone or in writing, must include specific details regarding the purpose and scope of the request, and should be submitted a reasonable time in advance, giving the District ample time to assess the request and, in the event that the request is approved, notify relevant staff, students, and parents as deemed necessary.

The District reserves the right to grant or deny any request for access to school(s) from the news media. Access will not be denied in an attempt suppress a viewpoint but may be denied for at least the following reasons. Access would:

1. Compromise the safety of students or staff;
2. Disrupt the educational environment, disrupt district operations, and/or impede the ability of staff to perform their duties;
3. Breach confidentiality;
4. Be overly demanding on district resources.

When the Superintendent denies an access request from the news media, the Superintendent or designee may be available for comment on the topic that news media had requested to cover.

In the event that the Superintendent approves an access request, the requesting news agency shall receive notice of any restrictions the Superintendent has placed on access to students or staff and/or videotaping/recording/photographing. Such restrictions shall be developed on a case-by-case basis but shall not be made in an attempt to suppress a viewpoint. The news agency shall agree to these restrictions as a condition of access.

### **Emergencies**

In the event of an emergency, media requests to access students and/or staff on school property and at school-sponsored events shall be denied. The Superintendent shall serve as the district spokesperson and shall make him/herself available for comment as soon as practicable.

### **Rules Governing Media Access to Schools**

If the Superintendent or building principal grants the news media access to schools, the press is required to observe the following rules:

1. News media representatives must register in the school's main office before proceeding to other areas of the school building. Upon check-in, the building principal shall assign an escort to the news media representative(s), who shall remain with the press the duration of their stay on school property.
2. The press shall receive notice of and will be required to abide by all policies and regulations related to visitors in schools with the exception of rules prohibiting visitors from videotaping, recording, or photographing students/staff. The press will be bound by a separate set of rules related to videotaping, recording, and photographing as delineated above.

3. When the Superintendent approves an interview by the press of a minor on school property or at a school-sponsored event, the reporter shall identify him/herself to the minor, relay the purpose of the interview, and make the minor fully aware of what s/he is consenting to before beginning the interview.

**Violations**

Violations of school policies/regulations or behavior that is disruptive may result in the building principal or designee requiring such individuals to leave school property. Refusal to leave school property when asked will be deemed to be a willful disturbance of school operations, and the District will contact law enforcement to assist with removing the violator from school property or the school-sponsored event.

**End of Manvel School District #125 Board Reg. KBA-BR1..... Approved: 06/15/20**