

# POLICY

## PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Classroom Observation by Parent/  
Guardian and Outside Professionals

### 9150.1 CLASSROOM OBSERVATION BY PARENT/GUARDIAN AND OUTSIDE PROFESSIONALS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of minimizing any disruption of classroom instruction while at the same time aware that there are times when it may be helpful to have a parent/guardian visit and observe their child's school program. Therefore, the Principal may grant permission to a parent/guardian to observe a particular class, when in the judgment of the Principal, the request is educationally sound and presents only a minimal disruption to the educational process.

An outside professional hired by the parent/guardian may also 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 Chief Officer of Special Education Services. Once both parties have approved the observation, in writing, it may be conducted.

Classroom observations shall be limited in duration to forty (40) minutes at the elementary level or one teaching period at the secondary level. Any individual conducting a classroom observation shall be accompanied by an administrator or his/her designee. Any classroom observation conducted by a parent/guardian or a professional hired by a parent/guardian must focus solely on the child and may not be evaluative of the program or the staff implementing the child's educational program.



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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 Chief Officer of Special Education Services, parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final.

Adopted: 07 November 2018

