

<p style="text-align: center;">NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLASSROOM OBSERVATION POLICY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Approved: 4/29/2020 Updated: 8/27/2025</p>

I. PURPOSE

~~The purpose of the classroom observation policy is to accommodate, where appropriate, classroom observation of students while protecting all students' rights to confidentiality and privacy and to ensure minimal disruptions to student learning⁴.~~

⁴ ~~Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).~~

Section 8101 Definitions

~~(39) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT—The term ‘parental involvement’ means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—~~

- ~~(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;~~
 - ~~(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;~~
 - ~~(C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;~~
 - ~~(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116.~~
- ~~Section 1116 Parent and Family Engagement~~

~~(d) SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT~~

~~[...] each school served under this part shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school parent compact. [...] Such compact shall—~~

- ~~(2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum—~~
 - ~~(A) parent teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;~~
 - ~~(B) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and~~
 - ~~(C) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities [boldface added]; and~~
 - ~~(D) ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.~~

I. PURPOSE

This classroom observation policy aims to establish appropriate guidelines for observing students in educational settings while safeguarding the confidentiality and privacy rights² of all students and ensuring minimal interruption to the learning environment.

North Providence Public Schools hereby establishes guidelines to facilitate and govern observations of students and their educational program, whether conducted by parents/guardians themselves or by consultants or evaluators they have engaged.

II. POLICY

~~Parents of children in the School District or educational consultants hired by a parent may observe a student or students in the classroom provided they follow the requirements and procedures established by the School District. The District shall consider the safety, security and privacy concerns for all students³ and staff, as well as disruptions to the educational process when granting such observation.~~

~~The Superintendent is directed to develop protocols regulating and facilitating the process for classroom observations and further the Superintendent or his/her designee will oversee the implementation of such requirements consistent with this policy.~~

Parents/guardians of students enrolled in the School District, as well as educational consultants or evaluators retained by parents, may conduct classroom observations of students provided they comply with the procedural requirements established by the School District. When considering such observation requests, the District will prioritize safety considerations, confidentiality concerns, and the maintenance of an effective educational environment for all students and staff.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop comprehensive protocols to regulate and facilitate classroom observations, and either the Superintendent or the designated representative will oversee the implementation of these protocols in accordance with this policy.

² As guaranteed by the IDEA, Section 504, FERPA, the PPRA and Rhode Island General Law.

³ ~~As guaranteed by the IDEA, Section 504, FERPA, the PPRA and Rhode Island law.~~