

# POLICY

## OLD BRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY  
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NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS

Representatives of the local newspapers and radio and television stations are an important link in the communications chain between the school district and the community it serves. The maintenance of good working relationship with members of the press is essential to meeting the objectives of the district's school and community relations program.

The Board of Education must give formal approval to all basic practices governing relations between news media and the district and reserves the right to negotiate, on terms most favorable to the district, for the radio broadcasting, televising, filming, or sound recording of any school event by an outside agency.

The Superintendent shall be the chief communications representative of the Board. He or she shall be readily available to media representatives, provide media representatives with all appropriate and necessary information, suggest or supply feature articles or stories, prepare "press kits," assist school and parent organizations with press relations, meet periodically with media representatives, and protect school personnel from any unnecessary demands on their time by news media representatives.

The Superintendent must approve in advance interviews between staff members or pupils and media representatives and authorize the release of photographs of district subjects, personnel, or pupils. Where the release of a photograph may violate the privacy of a pupil or staff member, the Superintendent must first secure the written permission of the staff member or the pupil's parent or legal guardian.

Adopted: 19 January 1999

Revised: 27 June 2000

