

MEDIA ACCESS

It is the intention of the Governing Board of Murrieta Valley Unified School District to develop and maintain positive media relations by providing accurate, reliable, timely information while ensuring the continuance of orderly educational activities.

Media representatives are welcome to attend all meetings of the Governing Board. Meeting announcements and agendas shall be furnished to news media and will be posted on the District web site.

Media representatives, like all other visitors, shall register in the school office immediately upon entering any school building or grounds.

District staff may provide the media with student directory information, including, but not limited to, the name of a student, school of attendance, grade level, honors, and activities, unless the student's parent/guardian has submitted a written request that such information not be disclosed. District staff shall not release information that is private or confidential as required by law, Board policy or administrative regulation. No other access to student records or personally identifiable student information may be provided without written parent/guardian permission.

Interviews and Photographs

The District shall not impose restraints on students' right to speak freely with media representatives at those times that do not disrupt students' educational program. However, interviews and photographs of students may not create substantial disorder or impinge on the rights of others. Therefore, in order to minimize possible disruption and protect the privacy and safety of students, media representatives who wish to interview or photograph students on school grounds are strongly encouraged to make prior arrangements with the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall choose the location of all interviews and photograph sessions being permitted on school grounds.

At their discretion, parents/guardians may instruct their children not to communicate with media representatives.

When interviewing or photographing a special education student, he/she shall not be identified as a special education student without prior, written parent/guardian permission.

MEDIA ACCESS (continued)

Media Releases

Notifying the media about activities at the schools, including programs, changes, expansion, special events, curriculum and other items of public interest is strongly encouraged.

The Superintendent or designee will be the media liaison responsible for coordinating the release of information concerning the District and actions of the Board. The principal of each school or designee will be the media liaison for the dissemination of information relating to his/her school.

- (cf. 1110 - Communication with the Public)*
- (cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*
- (cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)*
- (cf. 5125 - Student Records)*
- (cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)*
- (cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*
- (cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 34172 Promotional activities*
- 35144 Special meetings*
- 35145 Public meetings*
- 35145.5 Public participation in school district board meetings*
- 35146 Closed sessions*

PENAL CODE

- 627-627.10 Access to school premises*

COURT DECISIONS

- Lopez v. Tulare Joint Union High School District (1995) 34 Cal. App. 4th 1302*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 95 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 509 (1996)*

Policy
adopted: February 28, 1990
revised: February 19, 2004

MURRIETA VALLEY USD
Murrieta, California