

# WALLINGFORD- SWARTHMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: GUEST SPEAKERS

ADOPTED: September 24, 2018

REVISED:

## 150. GUEST SPEAKERS

In order to provide students with more comprehensive exposure to a topic of study, teachers may recommend the use of a guest speaker to present to a class or group of students. For the purposes of this policy, a guest speaker is defined as an individual not employed by the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District or an Intermediate Unit.

Such recommendations shall be made to the building principal who shall approve or deny the request. The principal's decision shall be governed by the following criteria:

1. The speaker's topic must have a direct and demonstrable link to the program/course content and objectives or, in the case of an extracurricular activity, the activity's purpose and objectives.
2. The speaker has the education or experience to present on the proposed topic.
3. If the proposed presentation topic is anticipated to be a controversial one within the District, there must be a means of ensuring that the topic is presented in a balanced manner, either by the presenter or through other qualified presenters addressing the students shortly thereafter.
4. Speakers who advocate unconstitutional or illegal acts or ideas shall not be allowed to present to District students.

The approval of speakers using the above criteria in no way guarantees that such speakers will present opinions and/or information in a non-disruptive manner consistent with the District's mission and instructional goals and objectives, and those arranging for such guest speakers must monitor speakers and be prepared to intercede where appropriate.

If the principal approves a teacher's request for a guest speaker, the principal shall:

1. Provide notice to parents of the presentation. If the speaker will address a controversial topic, the principal shall afford parents the opportunity to opt-out their child from the presentation. No academic sanctions shall be taken against such students and an alternative assignment shall be provided.

2. Require the speaker to agree, in writing prior to the presentation, to the following:
  - a. The speaker will follow all policies and administrative regulations related to visitors and guest speakers in school.
  - b. The speaker will refrain from using profanity, vulgarity, and lewd language.
  - c. The speaker agrees to present material in an age-appropriate manner.
3. Generate a record of the date, time, name, and topic(s) covered by the guest speaker.

A guest speaker who violates this or other applicable policies, disrupts the educational environment, or endangers the health or safety of students/staff shall be asked by a teacher or principal to discontinue the presentation and 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.