

Visitor Guidelines

Southern Minnesota Special Education Consortium recognizes the importance of parents and community members supporting our schools by observing classroom instruction and volunteering in our schools. We welcome visitors. However, we reserve the right to closely monitor school visitors in order to minimize disruption of instruction. Standards for individuals who wish to observe/visit a classroom or program:

1. Classroom observations/visits should be scheduled at least two days in advance with the building administrator or their designee.
2. Observations shall be limited to 60 minutes duration to avoid disruption or distractions in the classroom, unless the building administrator believes there are compelling reasons for a longer visit.
3. The number of visits/observations shall be limited to three per school year to minimize disruption to instruction. This limit does not include times when parents are invited to a classroom for a special event or presentation, or when serving as a volunteer with a teacher.
4. Observations/visits will be limited to one visitor at a time, unless the request is for both parents.
5. Observers/visitors will remain in the location directed by the teacher to minimize the disruption to instruction.
6. Observers/visitors will not look at work samples nor gather information about any student, other than their own child, who is present in the classroom or instructional program.
7. The building administrator or their designee may be present during the observation in order to facilitate discussion or respond to questions that may arise. A follow-up meeting may be scheduled to address questions or concerns.
8. In order to maintain a safe and secure school environment, all visitors are required to sign in at the school office, wear a visitor's badge while in the school or on school grounds and sign out when leaving the building.
9. To protect the learning environment, visitors are asked not to bring younger children with them, nor utilize any personal electronic equipment such as audio or video recording

devices and cell phones.

10. Visitors must respect and observe the privacy rights of students as provided under state and federal law.

11. A visit may be ended by the building administrator or their designee at any time if classroom activities or instruction are being disrupted.

Classroom Observation Confidentiality Acknowledgement

Thank you for visiting our schools. Your involvement and support in educating our children is greatly appreciated.

While in our schools, you may encounter or become aware of information about student grades, test scores or other information about specific students; overhear conversations between school staff regarding students; and observe student interactions, including behavioral incidents that may need to be addressed by school staff.

To protect the data privacy rights of students in compliance with federal and state laws, we are asking that you sign this form indicating that any information you obtain related to any student will remain confidential.

Printed Name

Signature of Visitor

Date