

Board Policy
Public Participation in Board Meetings**Descriptor Code: BCBI**

In accord with its policy confirming the right and desirability of the public's expressing its point of view to the Board, delegations or individuals are welcome at all meetings, subject to the following regulations:

1. The Board encourages individuals to contact the Superintendent, his/her administrative staff and/or local school administrators in an effort to secure a satisfactory solution to any concerns prior to referral to the Board of Education.
2. Certain matters relating to personnel, members of the Board, and other items which the law authorizes must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the Board in Executive Session.
3. Matters concerning an individual school shall be discussed first with the principal of that school. If the problem cannot be resolved at the school, it shall then be brought to the Superintendent of Schools. If the problem cannot be resolved with the Superintendent of Schools, it may then be brought to the Board.

Citizens of the community have the expressed right and are encouraged to attend meetings of the Board to listen to and observe the deliberations of its members. The following regulations are adopted to preserve the orderly pursuit of business of the Board and to provide proper opportunities for legitimate and objective discussion and analysis of the issues presented. Board meetings are public meetings and not meetings of the public; however, any citizen may request the opportunity to communicate with the Board and be recognized to speak regarding appropriate issues. Persons desiring to communicate with the Board shall submit a written request to the Superintendent stating their name, home address, the topic about which they wish to speak and the group they represent, if applicable, no later than 4:00 o'clock on the Friday prior to the scheduled Board meeting.

The Douglas County Board of Education will hear public commentary from any interested resident of Douglas County, Douglas County School District student or parent/guardian of a District student; non-resident owner of property within the geographic boundaries of the District; and/or employee of the District pursuant to the guidelines outlined in this Policy. Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by the student's parent or guardian.

The Board vests in its chairperson or other presiding officer authority to determine whether it is in the interest of the Board to allow any individual or group to make an oral presentation before the Board. Persons who are granted the opportunity to speak will be recognized by the chairperson at the appropriate time during the meeting. Speakers will be limited to three minutes. If there are numerous requests to address the Board the chairperson may select representatives to speak on each side of the issue. The Board also vests in its chairperson or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to the guidelines established by the Board.

Personal complaints of school employees should follow the Complaints and Grievances procedures established by the Board.

Individuals and/or groups who addressed the Board previously may be denied the opportunity to address the Board again on the same topic.

The Board will usually not respond to comments or questions posed by citizens during the Board meeting, but will take those comments and questions under advisement. When appropriate, the comments and questions shall be referred to the Superintendent for consideration and a later

response.

Douglas County Schools

Date Adopted: 3/18/2003

Last Revised: 8/1/2011

Georgia Code

Description

- O.C.G.A. 16-11-0034 Preventing or disrupting a meeting of General Assembly or other meetings of members
- O.C.G.A. 16-11-0035 Removal from campus or facility of unit of university system or school; failure to leave
- O.C.G.A. 50-14-0001 Open Meetings Law

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.