SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: AUDIO, VIDEO, OR OTHER

ELECTRONIC RECORDINGS OF STUDENT EDUCATIONAL

PLANNING MEETINGS

ADOPTED: March 12, 2011

REVISED:

141. AUDIO, VIDEO, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC RECORDINGS OF STUDENT EDUCATIONAL PLANNING MEETINGS

1. Purpose

Increasingly, educational planning for children is becoming a collaborative partnership between parents and educators, meetings involving teachers, program specialists, administrators, and parents are often necessary, sometimes required by law, and nearly always in the best interest of the child. Whether the occasion is a meeting of the Individualized Educational Program ("IEP") team of the child or a simple parent-teacher conference, the exchange should consist of a frank, open, and respectful discussion and exchange of ideas without fear or suspicion among the participants.

Recording such meetings, by whatever means, often corrupts the atmosphere of trust and respect that encourages candid and thorough discussion of issues and concerns. Participants in a recorded discussion are more likely to feel as though they are under suspicion of wrong-doing. They are thus more likely to guard their words and refrain from sharing ideas that might benefit the child. The purpose of this guideline is to protect the atmosphere of respect and candor that should characterize the meeting of parents and educators, in the interest of the children they have in common.

2. Guidelines

General Rule

The recording of all meetings between parents and teachers, paraprofessionals, program specialists, consultants, or administrators is prohibited. Attempts to record a meeting after the school employee responsible for the meeting has verbally prohibited it will result in the immediate termination of the meeting and could result in the ejection of the offending party from school premises and prosecution for any secretive or nonconsensual audio recording.

Exceptions

- Circumstances under which recording is permitted. Recording of meetings otherwise prohibited under Section 2.0 shall be permitted when—
 - The participant who seeks to record the meeting presents, at least five days prior to the meeting or as soon as possible beforehand if five days is impossible, documentation substantiating that he or she has a disability that

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