

## **LIONSGATE ACADEMY**

### **603 CLASSROOM OBSERVATION POLICY**

*Original Adoption Date: 05/21/2019*

*Revision Date(s):*

*Review Date(s):*

**I. PURPOSE** The purpose of this policy is to inform the school community and the general public of the position of

Lionsgate Academy on observations in the classroom.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

A. Lionsgate Academy reaffirms its position on the importance of maintaining a school environment that is safe for students and employees and free of activity that may be disruptive to the student learning process. B. Classroom observations by family members are strongly discouraged as these observations fundamentally alter the teaching and learning environment for all students and compromise students' privacy with regard to their special education services and status. C. Given the high proportion of students on the autism spectrum at Lionsgate Academy and the sensitivity to changes in the environment for this group of students, changes to classroom routines in the form of observers are strongly discouraged.

### **III. ALTERNATIVES TO DIRECT OBSERVATION**

A. In cases where family members wish to observe their student in a classroom, the family member must contact the building principal/site director and student's case manager or advisor to discuss the reason for wanting an observation. B. The school will work with the parents/guardians/professionals to arrange for data gathering that is not disruptive to the educational environment. These may include, but are not limited to: video recording (student only with peers redacted), observation in lunch room, chaperoning field trips or other means of communication that does not involve the presence of a parent/guardian/professional in the classroom. C. Video recording of students in classrooms is limited to two (2) times per year for up to two (2) hours.

References: *APA, DSM 5 – Criteria for Autism 20 U.S.C.*

*§ 1232g - Family Education and Privacy Act (FERPA)*