

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

Specific provisions should be made pertaining to the Board of Education receiving the views and opinions of visitors and/or delegations of citizens. Receiving citizen input must be balanced against the need for the board to run a reasonably timed, efficient meeting. With this in mind, the audience to visitors' portion exists on the agenda. During this portion of the meeting, individual citizens may briefly address the Board of Education regarding issues of concern. Such citizens, when recognized by the presiding officer, will give their name, address, the organization being represented, and state their opinion briefly and concisely. A time limit of three minutes will exist for each speaker and a total time limit for a topic may be imposed at the presiding officer's discretion.

The Board of Education will not take action on items discussed during the audience to visitors, unless it is specifically on the agenda. This is done to avoid violation of the notice requirement of the open meeting law. If necessary, the presiding officer may request that an item be placed on an agenda for future action and/or consideration. The board will, whenever possible, be responsive to questions raised.

While the public has the right and is openly encouraged to attend board meetings, "no individuals or groups have the right to enter into the deliberations of the board. They may take part in the discussion only when the board invites them to do so." Again, each speaker, when recognized by the presiding officer, will give their name, address, the organization being represented, and state their position briefly and concisely. The same time restrictions apply here as previously noted.