**Hancock Central School 1240(1)**

**RESTRICTION UPON SCHOOL VISITATION**

In *Appeal of Canazon,* 33 Ed Dept Rep 124, and appeal was made to the Commissioner of Education from a school district’s denial of a request by a parent to observe a sixth grade health education sequence. The Board Policy stated:

*Visitations to classrooms for any purpose require permission, in advance, from the building principal in order to allow teachers the opportunity to arrange their schedules to accommodate such requests.*

The Commissioner concluded that Education Law § 1709 (2) grants Boards of Education the authority to “*establish such rules and regulations concerning the order and discipline of the schools . . . as they may deem necessary to secure the best educational results”.* The Commissioner concluded that they policy does not confer upon an individual an absolute right to visitation, but instead give the building principal discretion to restrict access. Such a policy is within a Board’s authority to enact.

**THE ABILITY TO RESTRICT A PARENT REGARDING CLASSROOM VISITATIONS IS VESTED IN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board of Education should pass a policy giving the right of a principal to grant or not grant permission to be in the school building or visit classes. Although the policy in *Canazon* appeared to indicate that the principal would not have the authority to deny permission, the Commissioner concluded that the principal did have discretion to restrict access.. A precise policy may be more appropriate. We suggest:

*Visits to school building and classrooms for any purpose requires permissions, in advance, from the building principal. The building principal, for good cause, may deny or limit such access, in which case, the building principal shall so inform the applicant, setting forth the reasons for denial or restriction of access.*

Adopted: 05/09/1994