

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS

Human resources are those individuals or groups who are invited into the schools to present supplementary information and ideas to the classroom course of study. The classroom use of resource persons from the community can be an invaluable educational instrument. Like field trips, resource speakers can help to eliminate artificial barriers which may exist between school and community. These experiences also afford students the opportunity to benefit from community viewpoints. A resource person should not be indiscriminately selected, but rather should be invited to participate in the class or school program when there exists an actual need for their special contributions. Care should be taken in selecting these speakers so that they are individuals who respect diversity in thinking and varying views and who are not attempting to inappropriately influence points of view.

A teacher who wishes to invite someone to a class as part of the instructional plan shall consult the principal who shall obtain permission from the Superintendent or designee in advance. The School Committee's policies on teaching about controversial issues and CORI checks shall be observed, and teachers shall bear in mind that teaching and advocacy are two different concepts; one-sided advocacy shall be avoided.

Approval of qualified and competent resource persons shall not be reasonably withheld. In no circumstances should anyone else be allowed to give instruction or address students of the Cambridge Public Schools, unless the Superintendent or designee has given express written approval.

Adopted: January 17, 2023