

Dedicated to improve education for all young people. The district is committed to creating conditions that challenge each student to become a humane and knowledgeable person capable of contributing to the betterment of his world.

Accent on the individual. The Dallas School District recognizes that each individual is unique and deserving of an education tailored to his special needs and interests.

Leadership in education. The improvement of instructional experiences by planning new programs and using teaching methods that help each student achieve all that he is capable of is a primary objective of the district.

Liaison with parents and community. The district works toward bringing about the proper coordination of activities and promoting two-way communication between the home, school, and community.

Acquisition of basic skills and attitudes. The school assists each student to acquire communication and mathematical skills, to develop understanding in humanities and sciences, and to formulate attitudes and values appropriate for living in our society.

Sensitive to the needs of the community. The district is responsive to the needs and interests of people and continually strives toward making our communities better places to live for all children and adults.

THE DALLAS REPORTER

IS AN OFFICIAL publication of the Dallas School District, Dallas, Pennsylvania, and is issued periodically during the year.

Dr. Linford A. Werkheiser

Superintendent



Mary Ward, Home and School Visitor; Barbara Landmesser, Counselor Coordinator; Frederick Case, Junior High School Assistant Principal; Jennie Hill, Coordinator of Nurses; John Doerfler, Elementary Counselor. (Absent when photo was taken, Mr. Gordon Schlier, junior high school counselor, and Mr. Gerald Wycallis, elementary school principal.

STUDENT RECORDS

As a result of national concern about the types of information schools were collecting and releasing on students, Congress passed the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also called the Buckley Amendment after its sponsor, Senator James Buckley of New York. This Act calls for complete confidentiality of all school records on students. The act furstates that no federal funds shall be made available to any school which has a policy denying or preventing parents from access to their child's records.

In compliance with the amendment and also following guidelines issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which required each school's policy submitted to the state by September 2, 1975, a Dallas Records Committee was formed to draw up the policy. Working with the Committee Chairman, Frederick J. Case, assistant principal at the junior high school; were the following: John J. Doerfler, elementary counselor; A. Jennie Hill, school nurse coordinator; Barbara Landmesser, counselor coordinator; Gordon Schlier, junior high school counselor; Mary Ward, home and school visitor; and Gerald Wycallis, principal of Dallas Intermediate School and Dallas Township. This committee met for numerous sessions over an 18 month period to wrote the policy which was adopted by the Dallas Board of Education at its September 9, 1975 meeting.

The policy includes provisions for the collection, maintenance and dissemination of students records. Under the subtitle "Collection of Information," the policy states the authority to collect information is derived from two types of consent: representational and individual. Representational consent constitutes the formal or tacit approval for collection of information by the duly elected members of the Board of Education. Some situations where representational consent will be sufficient involve the administration of interest, aptitude, achievement tests, vocational and occupational inventories and the reporting of skills and knowledge outcomes in subject matter areas.

Individual consent shall be obtained from parents or a qualified person (one who reaches the age of 18 and no longer is attending school, or is married whether age 18 or not), before proceeding with a program of psychological or personality evaluation, or collecting family background information. Where individual consent is to be obtained, it shall be in writing.

Under the subtitle, "Classification of Data," there are three categories in the Dallas School District policy.

Category A includes minimum personal information necessary for operation of the educational system, such as name and address of parent or guardian, birth date, academic work completed, grades, etc. This information shall be updated throughout the student's years of attendance and shall be maintained for at least 100 years.

Category B includes items such as scores on aptitude tests, health information, extra-curricular activities, offices held, honors achieved, family background data, methodically gathered ratings and observations by teachers and counselors and substantiated reports of reappearing or significant patterns of behavior.

Data in Categories A and B constitute the usual information available in each student's cumulative folder and shall be reviewed at periodic intervals or transition points presently considered to be at the end of the 4th, 6th, 9th and 12th grades.

Category C includes items such as reports from outside agencies, legal or clinical findings, unevaluated reports of teachers, counselors or administrative personnel and reports of parental conferences.

Category C data shall be kept under special control, reviewed at least once a year and destroyed as soon as their usefulness is ended or transferred to Category B.

Formal procedures for review and disposition of Category B and C data shall be established with the provision that good cause be shown for the retention of any such data.

Under the subtitle "Dissemination of Information Regarding Pupils," the policy states "the school district may, without consent of parents or students, release a student's permanent record file including Categories A and B to: 1. school officials and teachers within the district who have a legitimate educational interest; 2. the state secretary of education, his officers or subordinates so long as the intended use of this data is consistent with the state secretary's statutory powers and responsibilities and 3. officials of other primary or secondary schools where the pupil intends to enroll, with the provision the student's parents be notified, receive a copy of the transfer and have the opportunity to challenge the record.

School personnel may not divulge in any form, to any person other than listed above, information contained in school records except with written consent from the student's parent or qualified person specifying records to be released, to whom they will be sent or in compliance with judicial orders or orders of administrative agencies where those agencies have a lawfully issued subpoena. In these instances, the parents or qualified person shall be notified of all such order and the school's compliance.

Where permission is required from parents or a qualified person for the release of school records, a signed release must be obtained.

Either a student or his parents or guardian or their legal representative may have access to Category A information in the official administrative record. Parents or a qualified person may have access to Category B data. Students may have access to Category B data with written parental permission.

Business education resource center



The Business Education Resource Center is a popular place for developing business skills. Shown left to right are Liz Gerald, George Weaver, Cindy Garris, Miss Bettie Sullivan, business teacher; Mrs. Mary Williams, business aide; Betty Casterline and Cindy Purvin.

The senior high school Business Education Department has expanded the Office Practice Program to include a business skills resource center.

Partial funding for the resource center was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education under the Vocational Education Act of 1968.

The resource center will be equipped with electric typewriters, calculators, adding machines, ditto, mimeograph, multilith machines, and other basic equipment for individualized instruction.

An instructional aide is assigned to the center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the supervision of

Miss Bettie M. Sullivan, Business Education Chairperson.

Students may come to this center during study periods, and at other appointed after school times for practice on the machines, skill drills, and evaluation of progress.

Students who need more practice time to extend their skills and complete their assignments will derive many benefits from these experiences.

All teachers in the business education department prescribe individualized programs for their students. Students work through the prescriptive activities under the direction of an instructional aide who provides assistance and returns the completed programs to the teachers.