

Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies

It is desirable and advisable that the School maintain a good relationship with police, the Court, parole officers, Children's Services Board, and other agencies that deal with the public welfare, insofar as it benefits and protects the student, the School, personnel, School property, and the home.

Whenever a law enforcement officer (including police, parole, children's services, Board, or other agency representative) calls at the School in the performance of duty, the officer shall, upon arrival, be required to:

1. contact the proper school official;
2. produce satisfactory personal identification indicating the source of authority; and
3. state the purpose of business with the School.

In cases where the officer requests permission to question a student during School hours, the Principal or his/her designee shall first contact the parent or guardian for permission to question the student, and the parent or guardian shall be given the opportunity to be present during the questioning. The student shall then be called to the office for the interview.

The Principal or his/her designee shall remain present during the questioning, to represent the best interests of the School and may facilitate the interview or otherwise assist the student and parent or guardian if it seems advisable.

If the parent or guardian gives permission for the interview to take place, but cannot be present, or waives that right, then the Principal or his/her designee must be present to facilitate the interview or otherwise assist the student to the best of their ability. The student may specifically request another counselor or teacher to be present also.

If the parent or guardian refuses permission to question the student during School hours or cannot be contacted, the officer shall be informed of this, and the student shall not be called to the office for the interview.

In any case in which the officer wishes to take the student from School premises for questioning, permission from the parent or guardian to release the student to the officer shall be secured by the Principal or his/her designee. However, if the officer actually arrests the student for the commission of a crime, the student is to be released, even though the parents or guardians cannot be reached for notification; or, having been reached, refuse consent.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this policy, if a student is being questioned as a potential victim, and the officer states that law enforcement feels it inadvisable or inappropriate to contact a parent or guardian or have a parent or guardian present, the School will comply with the law enforcement officer and allow questioning of the student at the direction of the officer, provided the Principal or his/her designee is present to the fullest extent allowed by the officer.

Statutory regulations concerning the rights of students as citizens shall be observed at all times and complied with by both law enforcement and school officials. Students are entitled to full protection under the law.

All types of officers and agency representatives shall be required to follow the procedures described in this Policy.