

**School and Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation**

Bethany Public School District (District) officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe and secure school environment. Police officials have limited authority to interview or search students in schools or at school functions or to use school facilities in connection with police work. Police, however, shall be involved in threat assessment activities, and in the planning and implementation of school and District emergency plans, security and crisis response activities.

This regulation is intended to balance the needs of school and police officials. The reduction of ambiguity and confusion in how these officials interact will provide an optimal environment for education while ensuring that the public safety needs of the school and community are adequately met. Police officials may enter school property or a school function to question or to search a student or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have 1) a search or arrest warrant; or 2) probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on District property or at a school function; or 3) been invited by school officials.

Generally, police should be notified immediately of any crime. Police will make every attempt to minimize distractions or disruption of school routines during the performance of their duties. There may be instances where the transgression is so slight that the school administration can resolve the issue. Examples of crimes that fall into this category are theft of pocket change, minor vandalism, or minor physical altercations in which there is no injury or pain inflicted upon either participant.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Suggested Action</b>
Vandalism, Breaking, Entering, etc.	Police should be notified immediately.
Alcohol, Drugs, etc.	The suspected drug or alcohol should be secured by school administration and given directly to the responding police officer. The police officer will sign a receipt and give it to school administration. Prescription drugs out of the container should be seized and the prescription confirmed via the prescribing doctor. If the prescription is not valid the drug should be seized and the police notified.
Loitering	Notification of police and requests for arrest are within the discretion of school administration.
Confrontations	Confrontations, where students become involved in loud tumultuous behavior but do not assault another, is a violation of the law and police can arrest for this behavior. The decision to call the police and request an arrest is within the discretion of school administration.
Assaults	Physical altercations in which students are injured or pain has been inflicted upon another should be reported to the police as soon as practicable. The District’s crisis management plan may be activated.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS****Regulation 1411(b)**

Weapons	Confiscated weapons that are illegal in themselves should be turned over to the police department immediately by the District employee who seized same. This category of weapons includes knives with over a four (4) inch blade, dirk knives, switchblade knives, martial arts weapons, and guns. Ammunition should also be immediately turned over to the police. Any evidence or information relative to firearms in the school should be immediately relayed to the police. Weapons that are not illegal in themselves are a violation of school policy. Police notification in these instances is within the discretion of school administration.
Bomb Scare, Suspect Devices	Follow Crisis Plans. Do not handle suspected devices. Notify Superintendent's office and police. Police will notify the Fire Department. The Superintendent will decide whether or not to evacuate following discussions with the police and fire officials.
Civil Disobedience	When known about in advance, school administration and police should plan beforehand. Picketing is legal whereas blocking traffic, etc. is illegal. Police officials may be requested to assist in controlling disturbances at school and if necessary to take a student or other persons into custody.
Motor Vehicles, Parking Lots	Police routinely patrol parking lots and may arrest or summon individuals in said lots.
Police Interviews	Generally will not take place on District grounds. However, if police do indicate that an interview on District grounds is necessary, District authorities shall cooperate.
Police Interviews of Juveniles	<p>When the interview involves a juvenile, the police will usually arrange to have a parent/guardian present. The exceptions to this rule are a) if a student is being interviewed as a victim and/or b) if there is an overriding immediate public safety concern. If a student under the age of sixteen (16) is being interviewed by the police and the parent/guardian cannot be present, a District employee should be present.</p> <p>Students who are questioned by police officials on District property or at a school function will be afforded the same rights they have outside the school. This means they 1) must be informed of their legal rights, 2) may remain silent if they so desire, and 3) may request the presence of an attorney.</p>

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Regulation 1411(c)

Child Abuse	a District employee has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused by a District employee, they must report the abuse to DCF.
Extracurricular Activities	Police assigned on-site will request additional police resources as needed. Police officials assigned to extracurricular activities shall report to the school administration to discuss appropriate monitoring procedures.
Arrest Warrants	<p>These are times in which the police may decide to pick up a student due to an arrest warrant being issued. Once notified of an outstanding arrest warrant for a student, the student should be escorted from class by a District employee and remain in a secured office until the police arrive. The arrested student will be removed from the school in a way that minimizes embarrassment to the student any disruption of the school routine.</p> <p>When a student is removed from school by law enforcement officers for any reason, school administration will make every reasonable effort to notify the student's parent/guardian. The school administration will document such efforts in writing.</p>
Confidential Police Records	Police officials are prohibited by state and federal law from disclosing confidential juvenile arrest information or using the police computer network to obtain information relative to registration numbers, home addresses, etc.
Search of Students	District employees may search students, book bags, lockers, desks, etc. using the established "reasonable suspicion" standard. In cases where a student is suspected of carrying a dangerous weapon and there is a safety issue inherent in the search process itself, the police should conduct the search after the student is secured in an office.

### Notification of a Student's Arrest

Pursuant to the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233h, as amended by Public Act 94-221, Public Act 95-304 and Public Act 97-149, whenever the Superintendent receives oral, followed by written notification from the local police department or state police that a student was arrested for a Class A misdemeanor, a felony, or for selling, carrying, or brandishing a facsimile firearm, the Superintendent shall maintain the written report in a secure location and the information in the report shall be maintained as confidential in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 46b-124. The Superintendent may disclose such information, when reported during the school year, only to school administration.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Regulation 1411(d)

The school administration may disclose such information only to special service staff or a consultant, such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker, for the purposes of assessing the risk of danger posed by the person to other students, school employees, or property and effectuating an appropriate modification of such person's educational plan or placement for disciplinary purposes. Such information with respect to a child under sixteen (16) years of age shall be confidential in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 46b-124 and shall only be disclosed as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed.

Legal references:        Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-233a through 10-233s  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-223g(b)  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-233h, as amended  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 17a-101  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 17a-102  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-124  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 53-206c  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-185  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 54-76j  
                                 *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1988), 469 U.S. 325; 105 S.Ct 733

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