

Student Interviews by Child Protective Services or Law Enforcement Officers

It is the intent of the Board of School Trustees to cooperate fully with all law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties.

It is likewise assumed that enforcement officers will also strive to avoid undue disruption of the normal school activities and will exercise every effort to protect the welfare and the rights of the individual.

Investigation of Child Abuse or Neglect

1. When possible, prior to visiting the school, law enforcement officials or child protective service case workers should notify either the school administrator or his/her designee of the date and time of the intended visit.
2. Parents of the students to be interviewed shall not be notified by the school prior to the interview.
3. Upon entering the school building, the Child Protective Services caseworker or law enforcement officer should immediately contact the school administrator or his/her designee.
4. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a member of the school staff may be present when a student is interviewed in school. The school representative may include the nurse, school counselor, principal, or other school staff member specially trained in dealing with serious problems of children.
5. If the investigation team decides that the protection of the student requires the immediate taking of the student into custody, this decision and the reasons for the decision shall be promptly communicated to the school representative.
6. If a parent subsequently calls or comes to the school demanding an explanation of the action taken by the investigative team, he/she shall be referred directly to Child Protective Services or law enforcement officials. No other information shall be given to the parent by the school.

Investigations by Law-Enforcement Officers

1. The school shall honor court orders and warrants for arrest.
2. The school shall permit interviews of students by law enforcement officers during the school day only when interviews during non-school hours are impossible, impractical, or would unduly interfere with the law enforcement and after parent notification has been made.
3. Prior to visiting the school, the law enforcement officer shall notify the school administrator or his/her designee of the date, time, and purpose of the intended visit.

4. The school shall notify the parent(s) of the student to be interviewed prior to the interview and to determine if the parent wishes to be present during the interview.
5. Upon entering the school building, the law enforcement officer should immediately contact the school administrator or his/her designee.
6. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or requested by the parents, a member of the school staff shall be present whenever a student is interviewed in the school. The school representative may include the school principal or school counselor.