

506.05.01 POLICE INTERROGATIONS & INVESTIGATIONS

The following procedure will govern investigative interviews of students at school except where police or welfare officials are investigating suspected child abuse or neglect (see the Board policy and procedures on POLICE INTERROGATIONS & INVESTIGATIONS).

Only representatives of the St. Paul Police Department may be granted permission to see and interview students in school. Private detectives, attorneys, or representatives of private concerns conducting investigations shall not be allowed access to students in school and shall be informed that they may only question students outside of school.

When it is necessary for a representative of the juvenile division to interview a student in school, the following procedure shall be observed:

1. The representative of the juvenile division shall inform the principal or the assistant principal (when the principal is absent), of the purpose for the officer's visit, including the reasons why it is unwise or unsatisfactory to contact the student at home or other place outside the school.
2. If the representative of the juvenile division is not known to school personnel he or she shall produce satisfactory identification and the officer's badge number shall be documented.
3. Principals shall have the authority to permit or deny the request to conduct the interview in the school building.
4. If permission for the interview is granted, the decision as to whether the parents shall be notified or should be present shall depend on the facts in each case and shall be determined by the school administrator or his/her designee. If there is any doubt, the parents shall be notified.
5. Interviews of students by a representative of the Juvenile division at the schools shall be in private and with confidentiality and may be held in the presence of the principal and/or his or her designated representative without interruption and without observance by other school personnel or students.
6. If the principal of an elementary school is absent from the building when a representative calls to make an investigation, every attempt shall be made to contact the principal. If the principal cannot be contacted, the principal's designee shall be contacted. No investigation or interview with students shall be held unless permission is received.
7. If it is necessary for the representative of the juvenile division to request permission to take the student from the school for questions, permission shall be obtained from the parent before such permission is granted.

ARRESTS

If the officer arrests a student, he or she shall have complete jurisdiction in the matter and the principal shall not interfere with the student's removal from the building. However, the arrest should be arranged in a manner to make the removal as unobtrusive as possible. The principal shall notify the home as soon as the officer takes the student from the building.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

CROSS REFERENCES: Child Abuse and Neglect

