

1 **4411 COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

2 INVESTIGATIONS

3 Investigations Conducted by School Officials

4 The administration has the authority and duty to conduct investigations and to question individuals
5 pertaining to infractions of school rules, whether or not the alleged conduct is a violation of criminal
6 law. The administration shall determine when the necessity exists that law enforcement officers be asked
7 to conduct an investigation of alleged criminal behavior which jeopardizes the safety of other people or
8 school property or which interferes with the operation of the schools.

9 In instances when the administration has reasonable suspicion that a violation of district policy or law has
10 occurred, the administrator will investigate. The administrator will notify the suspected rule violator(s)
11 and/or potential witness(es). The suspected individual shall be advised orally or in writing of the nature
12 of the alleged offense and of the evidence against the individual. All individuals will be afforded due
13 process.

14 Cooperation with Law Enforcement Officials other than School Resource Officers (SRO)

15 Cooperation with all law enforcement officers will be maintained. Pertaining to criminal activities
16 unrelated to the operation of the school, it is the preference of the District that law enforcement officers
17 other than SROs, will normally not initiate, and conduct any investigation and interrogation on the school
18 premises, during school hours. It is preferred that only in demonstrated emergencies, when law
19 enforcement officers find it necessary, will they conduct such an investigation during school hours. These
20 circumstances might be limited to those in which delay might result in danger to any person, flight of a
21 person reasonably suspected of a crime from the jurisdiction or local authorities, destruction of evidence,
22 or continued criminal behavior.

23 No school official however, should ever place him/herself in the position of interfering with a law
24 enforcement official in the performance of his or her duties as an officer of the law. If the law
25 enforcement officials are not recognized and/or are lacking a warrant or court order, the building principal
26 shall require proper identification of such officials and the reason(s) for the visit to the school.

27 In all cases, the officers shall be requested to obtain prior approval of the Principal or other designated
28 person before beginning such an investigation on school premises. Alleged behavior related to the school
29 environment brought to the Principal's attention by law enforcement officers shall be dealt with under
30 the provisions of the previous section.

31 Cross Reference:

- 32 3200 Student Rights and Responsibilities
- 33 3232 Students - Investigations
- 34 3650 School Resource Officer
- 35 4226 Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying
- 36 4310 Public Complaints
- 37 4330 Community Use of School Facilities
- 38 4410 Relations with the Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies

- 1 Legal Reference:
- 2 § 20-1-206, MCA Disturbance of school – penalty
- 3 § 20-5-201, MCA Duties and sanctions
- 4 § 45-8-101, MCA Disorderly conduct

- 5 Policy History:
- 6 Adopted on: November 14, 2016
- 7 Reviewed on:
- 8 Revised on: