

## **445 - STUDENT INTERVIEW/INTERROGATIONS**

The Board encourages administrators and staff to work in close cooperation with law enforcement, social services and other outside agency personnel for the safety and well-being of students and staff. Law enforcement and other outside agency personnel may interview students at school during the school day at the request of or with authorization from the building principal or designee.

A reasonable effort shall be made to notify the parent or guardian prior to student interviews with outside agency. School personnel shall not notify parents or guardians of a student interview conducted for child abuse or neglect investigation purposes without approval of the outside agency personnel conducting the interview.

The building principal or designee may be present during a student interview with outside agency personnel, unless the student or his/her parent or guardian requests otherwise. Outside agency personnel conducting child abuse or neglect investigations may exclude school personnel from the interview.

It is the responsibility of the building principal or designee to ensure fair and consistent implementation of this policy.

### Guidelines for Notification of Parents or Guardians

1. A reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent or guardian prior to the start of the interview, except in the case of child abuse/neglect referrals. The interview may proceed prior to notification of the parent or guardian if (a) the situation is determined to require prompt action, (b) the situation is determined to be of a serious nature, or (c) the attempt to contact has been unsuccessful.
2. If a student or his/her parent/guardian declines to participate in an interview with law enforcement and/or social service personnel on school premises, the district will cooperate with the parent/guardian and law enforcement and/or social services personnel in their attempt to schedule a meeting away from school premises.
3. If a student makes a request to speak with law enforcement or social services, parental notification is not necessary and permission to speak shall be granted.
4. If criminal prosecution is contemplated by the law enforcement agency the interview shall not commence until the child's parent/guardian is present, unless the parent/guardian has waived the right to be present.

5. For emergency situations where the safety and well-being of the school community is threatened, law enforcement may interview a student prior to notifying a parent/guardian.
6. If the student is to be interviewed as a potential witness to an event, the parent/guardian may not be notified.

#### Interview Guidelines

1. All student interviews conducted on school premises shall receive prior approval of the principal or designee. Approval of an interview request shall take into consideration factors such as the age of the student, the purpose of the interview, the subject matter of the interview, whether the conduct occurred on school grounds, and the seriousness of the conduct at issue.
2. Interviews should be coordinated with the student's schedule in order to minimize disruption.
3. Interviews should not be conducted during an exam, except in an emergency.
4. The principal or designee should summon the student from his/her class, unless law enforcement and school administration feel the situation warrants personal contact by the officer.
5. The student shall be informed that he/she may request his/her parent/guardian or an advocate be present prior to the start of any interview.
6. No student shall be required to participate in an interview.
7. Interviews should be conducted in a closed setting, in order to allow confidentiality.
8. No employee shall disclose any information regarding the contact between law enforcement or social services and a student to anyone except a superior, or under appropriate circumstances, to a parent or legal guardian. No information will be shared with a parent or guardian in cases related to child abuse or neglect referrals.

*Legal References: Sections 48.981(3)(c); 118.125(2); 118.257(2); 946.40 and 946.41 of Wisconsin State Statutes*

Adopted: May 21, 2008,

Revised: January 15, 2014

Reviewed: May 28, 2020