

RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The primary responsibility for maintaining proper order and conduct in the schools resides with District staff. Staff will be responsible for holding students accountable for infractions of school rules, which may include minor violations of the law occurring during school hours or at school activities.

However, there are times when District staff will call upon law enforcement, child protective agencies, and the county health department to ensure the safety and protection of students or staff. Where there is substantial threat to the health and safety of students or others, such as in the case of bomb threats, threats of violence, trafficking in prohibited drugs, or the scheduling of events where large crowds may be difficult to handle, law enforcement will be called upon for assistance. Information regarding major violations of the law will be communicated to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

The District will strive to develop and maintain cooperative working relationship with law enforcement agencies, child protective agencies, and health department officials. The superintendent will confer with representatives of those agencies to establish agreed upon procedures for cooperation. Such procedures should address: the handling and reporting of allegations and/or investigations of child abuse and neglect, communicable diseases, and major criminal activity (including bomb threats and student threat assessments); protocols for arrests by law enforcement officers on District premises; the availability of law enforcement personnel for crowd control; and other matters where the work and duties of the District overlap with those agencies. Such procedures include Procedure 3432P (“Emergencies”) and Procedure 3226P (“Interviews and Interrogations of Students on School Premises”). The District will revise the procedures as necessary and make them available to affected staff members.

If the District engages with a school resource officer (SRO), the District will clarify its relationship with the SRO, including the SRO’s purpose, role, supervisory structure, and limitations on access to student information, in a written memorandum of understanding (MOU).

In contrast to the working relationships noted above, the work of immigration agents does not overlap with the work or duties of the District. The District’s obligation to educate does not depend on the immigration status of children or their parents/guardians. The District therefore supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy that enforcement actions do not occur at, and are not focused on, sensitive locations, including schools and school bus stops. Staff shall not grant information or access to immigration agents unless/until the district Superintendent and/or General Counsel determine the request complies with Plyler v. Doe and other applicable laws according to the criteria in 3226P Interviews and Interrogations of Students on School Premises.

Child Protective Services or agencies and law enforcement are defined as stated in RCW 26.44.020. County health department means a local entity defined in RCW 70.05.010.

“Immigration agent” shall mean an agent of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, any individuals authorized to conduct enforcement of civil immigration laws under 8 U.S.C. SS 1357(g) or any other federal law, other federal agents charged with enforcement of civil immigration laws, and any successors.

- Cross References: 3231 – Student Records
 3226 – Interviews and Interrogations of Students on School Premises
 3414 – Infectious Diseases
 3432 – Emergencies
- Legal References: RCW 28A.635.020 Willfully disobeying school administrative personnel or refusing to leave public property, violations, when—Penalty.
 RCW 26.44.030 Reports—Duty and authority to make—Duty of receiving agency—Duty to notify—Case planning and consultation—Penalty for unauthorized exchange of information—Filing dependency petitions—Investigations—Interviews of children—Records—Risk assessment process.
 RCW 13.44.140 Juveniles entitled to usual judicial rights—Notice of—Open court—Privilege against self-incrimination—Waiver of rights, when.
 Cowlitz County Child Abuse and Neglect Investigation Protocol
- Management Resources: 2018 – December Issue
 2013 - July Issue
 Policy News, April 2001, Compliance Office Provides FERPA Update
 Policy News, February 1998, FERPA limits student records access

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