

QUESTIONING OF STUDENTS BY POLICE

The questioning of students by the police will be conducted with strict regard for the constitutional rights of the student to remain silent. These rights are given to students by the police as standing procedure. During the questioning the principal or his/her designee shall be present and shall keep a record of the proceedings.

1. Incident on School Grounds: Questioning Minor Complainant and Witnesses who are Minors

a. If a principal requests an investigation by the police of an incident which occurred on school grounds, he/she shall promptly notify the parent or guardian of the student complainant and/or witnesses that the police have been asked to take statements from their children and shall invite the parent or guardian to be present. If the parent or guardian is unable to be present, the principal or his/her designee will be present. The parent or guardian has the right to refuse permission for police questioning of a child who is a minor.

b. Questioning Suspect

When the police have identified a student(s) as a suspect and the police wish to question the student(s), the principal shall notify the parent or guardian and request that they be present during the questioning.

(1) If the investigation deals with matters of public safety which require speedy investigation, and the parent or guardian cannot be reached, or cannot be present, then the principal or his/her designee shall be present during the questioning.

(2) If the investigation deals with incidents other than those involving public safety, the questioning of the student(s) will be delayed until the parent or guardian is present.

2. Incident in the Community

Police questioning of students concerning incidents which occur in the community will normally not be done on school grounds except that in matters dealing with public safety and the community interest, the procedures in Section 1.b(1), above will be followed.

3. Arrest on School Grounds

If the police arrest a student on school grounds, the parents shall be notified by the principal. A student who has been arrested may be removed from the school grounds by the police department. The parent or guardian must be notified by the principal or the police action.

Statutory references:

Connecticut General Statutes 10-154a;10-221;10-233d

Policy Adopted: September 11, 1997

LEARN