

STUDENT INTERVIEWS WITH OUTSIDE AGENCY PERSONNEL

The School Board encourages school administrators and District 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. Law enforcement-initiated student interviews that are not school related shall not be conducted on school premises during the school day, except in emergencies or as specifically required by law. Every effort should be made to schedule and conduct student interviews with outside agency personnel in a way that minimizes disruption of the student's normal school day, minimizes disruption of the normal functioning of the school, and minimizes the extent to which students may be distracted from their school work and classes. The building principal or designee shall assume the responsibility of finding the student and bringing them to the administrative office where the interview of questioning can be held in a closed setting, not readily accessible or open to public view. In order to ensure proper decorum in the classroom, no non-school personnel shall interrupt the classroom or in any way interfere with the classroom teacher providing instruction

Reasonable and appropriate attempts shall be made to notify the parent(s) or guardian of any student who is interviewed by a law enforcement official on school premises during the school day, with advance notice encouraged but not strictly required. 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 will 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, in the exercise of professional judgment and in accordance with department standards, 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.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

- Section 48.981(3)(c) [child abuse/neglect investigations; authority to interview child without parent permission]
Section 118.125(2) [confidentiality of student records; allows record sharing with law enforcement and other agency officials under certain circumstances, including student health and safety]
Section 118.257(2) [liability exemption for student referral to law enforcement officials for alcohol and other controlled substances]
Section 165.68 [address confidentiality program]
Section 946.40 [refusing to aid officer]
Section 946.41 [resisting or obstructing officer]

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