

**STUDENT INTERVIEWS BY POLICE**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

- A. The School District of New London recognizes that cooperation with law enforcement agencies is necessary for the education and protection of students, for maintaining a safe environment in the district schools and for safeguarding all school property. At the same time, the district recognizes its responsibility to protect the educational process and to provide for the concerns of parents/guardians regarding the welfare of their children.
- B. When laws may have been violated and in situations which threaten the safety of students and/or employees, students may be interviewed by law enforcement officials in accordance with Board policy and established procedures. Law enforcement-initiated student interviews that are not school related shall not be conducted on school premises, except in emergencies or as specifically required by law.
- C. All student interviews with law enforcement officials conducted on school premises shall receive prior approval of the building principal or designee. If a request for a student interview is denied, the building principal or designee shall state the reason for such denial. Law enforcement officials may appeal decisions made by the building principal or designee to the District Administrator.
- D. Consistent procedures shall be applied to all students.

**POLICY PROCEDURE**

- A. Definitions of student/law enforcement interviews.
  - 1. A student suspect interview - a student who is suspected of some violation of the law or some other offense.
  - 2. A student witness interview - a student who is thought to have some information that would be helpful to law enforcement officials in investigating some crime or other offense.
  - 3. A student victim interview - a student who is the victim of a crime. Interviews with students who are victims of abuse or neglect shall be governed by the Board's child abuse and neglect reporting procedures. Interviews with students who are victims of crimes other than abuse or neglect shall be governed by the Board's student interview policy and these procedures.
- B. General requirements regarding student/law enforcement interviews on school premises. Except as otherwise specifically provided, all student interviews with law enforcement officers on school premises shall be governed by the following guidelines:
  - 1. Law enforcement officers should make every reasonable attempt to interview students outside of the school setting except in cases where the school has requested law enforcement assistance, emergencies, or as specifically required by law.
  - 2. All student interviews with law enforcement officers on school premises shall be conducted in such a way as to minimize school disruptions.

- a. Interviews shall be coordinated with the student's schedule if at all possible.
  - b. Interviews should not be allowed during an exam, except in an emergency.
  - c. The principal, or his/her designee, should summon the student from his/her class rather than the law enforcement officer, unless the police department and school administration feel the situation warrants personal contact by the officer.
3. For student victim, witness interviews, parent notification will be attempted when law enforcement officers are involved.
  4. If a student or his/her parent/guardian declines a student interview with a law enforcement officer on school premises, the student will be dismissed from school or removed from school premises for the interview.
  5. If the student is asked to leave the building and accompany the officer to the police station, the police department is responsible for contacting the student's parent or guardian. If there are any complaints regarding the removal of a student from school, or notification, they should be directed to the district attorney or the appropriate police department.
- C. Special requirements regarding student suspect interviews.
1. A school administrator shall attempt to notify a student's parent/guardian prior to allowing a student suspect interview with law enforcement officers on school premises. A student suspect interview may be conducted without such prior parent notification if an emergency exists as determined by the building principal or designee and the police department. Some instances that might constitute an emergency are as follows: a delay may result in the flight of a suspect, destruction of evidence, opportunity to cover up the crime, or an unacceptable threat to the community.
  2. A student's parent/guardian will be given an opportunity to be present during a student suspect interview when possible.
  3. A school administrator shall be present during any student suspect interview with law enforcement officers on school premises unless the student or his/her parent/guardian requests otherwise or if the incident does not relate to school issues.
  4. A school administrator present during a student suspect interview with law enforcement officers shall not participate in the questioning.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Sections 48.19, 48.981, 118.257 Wisconsin Statutes.

CROSS-REFERENCE: 882.1 Police/School Liaison Program  
882.11 Police/School Liaison Officer Job Description