

DODGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy Manual

445 - Rule

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT INTERVIEWS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Types of Student/Law Enforcement Interviews

1. A **student suspect interview** is an interview with a student who is suspected of a violation of the law or some other offense.
2. A **student witness interview** is an interview with a student who is thought to have some information that would be helpful to law enforcement officials in investigating a crime or other offense.
3. A **student victim interview** is an interview with 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 policy and reporting procedures.

General Requirements Regarding 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 shall make every reasonable attempt to interview students outside of the school setting except when the school has requested law enforcement assistance, in emergencies, or as specifically required by law.
2. All student interviews with law enforcement officers on school premises during the school day shall be conducted in such a way as to minimize school disruptions.
 - a. Interviews shall be coordinated with the student's schedule and conducted during non-instructional time whenever possible.
 - b. Interviews shall not be allowed during an exam, except in an emergency.
 - c. The principal or designee shall summon the student from class rather than the law enforcement officer, unless the police department and principal or designee decide the situation warrants initial personal contact by the officer.
 - d. Interviews shall be conducted in a private, closed setting as to maintain confidentiality.
3. A reasonable effort shall be made to contact the parent/guardian of a minor student in advance of the interview, except for cases involving allegations of child abuse or neglect. The interview may proceed prior to notification of the parent/guardian if (a) the situation is determined by law enforcement and the building principal/designee to require prompt action; (b) the situation is determined to be of a serious nature; or (c) the attempt to contact the parent/guardian has been unsuccessful. When the District has been unable to make contact with a parent/guardian prior to the interview, the building principal/designee shall give written notification to the student's parent/guardian informing them of the interview.
4. The principal or designee may be present during the law enforcement officer interview as determined appropriate by the principal/designee and consistent with law enforcement department agency standards and applicable legal requirements. School personnel present during such interviews shall participate only to the extent and for the purposes determined appropriate by the school official and law enforcement officer prior to the interview.
5. Student record information shall be made available to law enforcement officers in accordance with the District's student records policy and procedures, and applicable legal requirements.
6. In cases where the law enforcement officer takes the student into custody or asks the student to

leave the school building and accompany the officer to another location for questioning or other authorized purposes, the principal or designee shall be notified of the action. If the student is a minor, the law enforcement officer shall be responsible for contacting the student's parents/guardians. Any complaints regarding the removal of a student from school, or notification, shall be directed to the district attorney or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Special Requirements Regarding Student Suspect Interviews

1. A student suspect interview may be conducted without prior parent notification if an emergency exists as determined by the principal and the law enforcement agency. Instances that might constitute an emergency include, but are not limited to, the following possible consequences of a delay: 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 may be given an opportunity to be present during a student suspect interview. The interview shall be conducted even if the parent/guardian is unable to be present.

Approved: June 6, 1994

Revised (WASB): December 17, 2012