

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Relations with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services or Agencies, and the County Health Department

As used in policies and procedures of the District, child protective services or agencies and law enforcement are defined as stated in RCW 26.44.020; and county health department means a local entity defined in RCW 70.05.010.

Relations with Law Enforcement

- A. A law enforcement officer will contact the principal or assistant principal upon entering a school building. In the absence of the principal or assistant principal, the employee in-charge will immediately notify another district administrator who will oversee the application of these procedures.
- B. An officer may request and be granted, after providing satisfactory identification, such student information as address, telephone number, parents' names, date of birth, dates of enrollment, and other directory information to the extent permitted by law, if the parent or student over 18 years of age has not filed a written objection to the release of directory information. Student records protected by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may only be examined or released following the written permission of a minor student's parent or an adult student, pursuant to a court order or subpoena, in response to a health or safety emergency, or in order to better serve the student in the juvenile justice system prior to adjudication.
- C. It is generally preferred that detention and questioning of students take place off school premises. The principal or other authorized administrator will, however, permit a law enforcement officer to conduct any necessary questioning on school property. Questioning of any student must be coordinated in advance with the appropriate administrator. (For documentation: Use district form No. 3421F.1, page 2 of 2) The officer will advise and afford a student the same legal rights as an adult, as well as the right to have a parent present during questioning if the student is twelve (12) years or younger. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) should be notified of the interview at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the course of the investigation.
- D. It is district policy that no child will be removed from school grounds during school hours, except by a person so authorized by a parent or legal guardian having legal custody thereof. Notwithstanding this policy, law enforcement officers may take custody of students and remove them from school premises pursuant to court order or lawfully issued subpoena. (For documentation: Use district form No. 3421F.1, page 2 of 2)

In addition, law enforcement officers may take custody of students and remove them from school premises without a warrant or other court order in a variety of circumstances, including when:

1. There is probable cause to believe that the student is abused or neglected and that the student would be injured or could not be taken into custody if it were necessary to first obtain a court order;
2. The officer has probable cause to believe that the student has committed or is committing a felony;
3. The student has committed a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor in the presence of the officer;
4. The officer has probable cause to believe that the student has committed a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor involving physical harm or threat of harm to any person or property, the unlawful taking of property or for crimes involving the use or possession of cannabis, or consumption of alcohol by a person under the age of twenty-one years; or
5. The officer has probable cause to believe that the student illegally possesses or illegally has possessed a firearm or other dangerous weapon on school premises.

The ultimate decision to detain for questioning, to take into custody, or to arrest a student should be left to the law enforcement officer.

A law enforcement officer is not required to have a warrant in order for the school to release the student into custody. In the event a student is taken into custody, the school will immediately notify the parent(s) or guardian(s), unless directed otherwise by the officer.

- E. If a court has released a student on conditions related to school, including attendance, behavior or progress, the administration will encourage the court to include as a condition of release the written permission of the adult student or parent of a minor student to release the student's records to the court or its designee.

Relations with Child Protective Services

- A. A child protective services worker will contact the principal or assistant principal upon entering a school building.
- B. A child protective worker may request and be granted, after providing satisfactory identification, such information as address, telephone number, parents' names, date of

birth, dates of enrollment, and other directory information to the extent permitted by law, if the parent or student over 18 years of age has not filed a written objection to the release of directory information. Information contained in the student's cumulative folder and any supplementary records will be available for inspection on evidence that a student is a ward of the state. Student records protected by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may only be examined or released following the written permission of a minor student's parent or an adult student, pursuant to a court order or subpoena, in response to a health or safety emergency, or in order to better serve the student in the juvenile justice system prior to adjudication.

- C. It is generally preferred that detention and questioning of students take place off school premises. The principal or other authorized administrator will, however, permit a child protective worker to conduct any questioning on school property outside of the presence of parents when child abuse or neglect is involved. Questioning of any student must be coordinated in advance with the appropriate administrator, who should take reasonable measures to verify the authority of the person who desires to do the questioning and to obtain a clear statement of the reasons that the person wishes to question the student. Parental notification of the interview will occur at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the course of the investigation. Prior to commencing the interview, the child protective services will determine whether the child wishes a third party to be present for the interview and, if so, will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the child's wishes. Unless the child objects, the child protective services will make reasonable efforts to include a third party in any interview so long as the presence of the third party will not jeopardize the course of the investigation.
- D. A child protective worker is required to have a warrant in order for the school to release custody of the student. However, if the child protective worker is accompanied by a law enforcement officer, no warrant will be required. (For documentation: Use district form No. 3421F.1) In the event a student is taken into custody, the school will duly notify the parent or guardian, unless directed otherwise by the law enforcement officer.

Relations with the Health Department

- A. A health department official will contact the principal or assistant principal on entering a school building.
- B. A health department official may request and be granted, after providing satisfactory identification, such information as address and date of birth if the parent or student over 18 years of age has not filed a written objection to the release of directory information. Information contained in a student's cumulative folder and any supplementary records will be available only with prior written consent of the parent or adult student, pursuant

to a court order or subpoena, in response to a health or safety emergency, or in order to better serve the student in the juvenile justice system prior to adjudication.

- C. It is generally preferred that detention and questioning of students take place off school premises. The principal or other authorized administrator will permit a health official to conduct a confidential interview with a student suspected of being in contact with an individual infected with a communicable disease when the interview is to be held during school hours, and the authorized administrator chooses not to release the student to travel to the health department. The questioning of any student must be coordinated in advance with the appropriate administrator, who should take reasonable measures to verify the authority of the person who desires to do the questioning and to obtain a clear statement of the reasons that the person wishes to question the student.

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