



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64

PROCEDURE 420 Student Interviews by Outside Agencies

*"Inspire learners, Integrate sustainability,
Involve community"*

Section: Students

Dates of Revisions:

Date of Adoption and

Resolution Number: June 13, 2018- 76/18

1. The Board School seeks to both work in partnership with police, social workers and public health nurses who find it necessary to interview students, while ensuring the legal rights of the students in its care. The board acknowledged that there will be some situations when interview procedures must take place at the school as a result of specific circumstances including, but not limited to,
 - a. concern for the student's health, safety, or well-being;
 - b. need to gather information from a student witness; and/or
 - c. need to interview a student who may be a suspect in a criminal investigation. In such cases, the school will strive to maintain respectful and low profile interactions between students and police/public safety personnel.
2. Interviews of students by police should be conducted away from District property and outside of school hours unless an 'on-site' and/or 'during school-hours' interview is deemed to be absolutely necessary by school administration, following consultation with agency personnel.
3. Requests by police and/or social workers to interview students on school premises are subject to the following:
 - a. Generally, students on school premises or at school-sponsored events are not to be formally interviewed as part of a formal investigation process, except in the following circumstances:
 - i. the principal/vice-principal or designate will work with agency personnel prior an interview takes place to determine a) the necessity of the interview; b) to request that a parent/guardian be present; c) to ensure an appropriate setting and time is established
 - ii. in cases where child abuse is suspected, the student may be interviewed under the legislative mandate for the protection of children;

- iii. in an emergent situation where there is no question of compromising the student's legal rights and where immediate information is necessary for quick action.
 - b. If a parent/guardian is unable to be present, for an interview as in 1a.(iii) above, the principal or designate shall
 - i. request to delay the interview until such time as the parent/guardian can be present;
 - ii. if this request is refused, ensure that the student's parents are contacted immediately;
 - iii. attend the interview to advocate for the child.
 - c. The student being interviewed:
 - i. if a minor, should have age-appropriate input into determining who will be present to provide support during the interview;
 - ii. if 19 years of age or living independently of parents/guardians, the student may decide whether the parents/guardians are notified;
 - iii. should be allowed time to consult with whomever he/she identifies as a person to accompany and support during the interview.
 - d. In situations where there is suspected child abuse or neglect or suspected spousal abuse, the police may interview students on District property without informing parents or guardians provided the principal or designate is present throughout the interview. Following the interview, and keeping in mind the best interests of the students, the parents or guardians of the students should be informed after the interview is completed, except where a parent or guardian is a suspect.
 - e. If the police must arrest a student:
 - i. it is the expectation of The board that the arrest will be conducted in the least obtrusive manner possible so as to avoid disruption to the school learning environment;
 - ii. the principal or vice-principal must immediately inform the student's parent/guardian that an arrest has been made, and provide whatever details can be made available, following discussion with agency personnel.
4. Teachers should not ordinarily take part in such interviews unless specifically requested by the student.

References:

- School Act Sections 6, 7, 20, 22, 26, 65, 85
- Youth Justice Act
- Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada)