

5016: POLICE CONTACT WITH STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS (AP)

Approved: 85 06 18
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POLICY

The Board of Education appreciates the importance of a respectful and cooperative relationship between schools and the RCMP in maintaining a positive and healthy school environment. The Board also recognizes the duty of educators to act in “loco parentis” on behalf of students in involvement with the police.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1.0 GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- 1.1 Except in crisis situations where it would be impractical for police personnel to make initial contact with a school administrator, all police contact with students at school shall occur with the knowledge and consent of the administrator, and with prior notification so that police arrival at the school can be anticipated and accommodated as practical, and so that parent contact can be made if possible.
- 1.2 School personnel will co-operate with personnel from law enforcement agencies following legal guidelines and local protocols which maintain the school’s responsibility to provide for the student’s well-being.

2.0 CONTACT WITH SCHOOLS

When police wish to have contact with students at school, the principal or designate shall request that the police complete interviews, questioning, searches and arrests at the student’s home or at another location away from the school if possible.

- 2.1 When it is necessary that police contact occur at school, the principal or designate shall:
 - 2.1.1 make every attempt to notify the parents and confirm whether they wish to attend. The administrator will document attempts to make contact.
 - 2.1.2 determine from the police officer what the nature of the contact will be: conversation, questioning or arrest.
 - 2.1.3 ensure that he/she will attend the interview in the absence of the student’s parents.

- 2.1.4 verify that the student understands that he/she is under no requirement by the school to participate in the interview or to answer questions.
- 2.1.5 decide where in the school the interview or arrest will take place in order to protect privacy and maintain the regular functioning of the school.
- 2.1.6 be sure that in all cases, complete records are kept of the circumstances of the police contact with students.
- 2.1.7 be certain that he/she, if present at the interview, does not participate in the questioning.
- 2.1.8 ensure that s/he does not act, or appear to act, as a representative of the police, and provide guidance to all school staff to ensure that no one from the school appears to be acting as a representative of the police.
- 2.1.9 provide, if requested by police, student demographic information.
- 2.1.10 proceed with any school-level investigation and/or other discipline-related steps as necessary once the initial police contact at the school has ended and be clear with the student and parents that the school-related consequences that may result will be determined separately from the police investigation and outcomes.

3.0 LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

School and district administration should be aware of the provisions and requirements of the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other pertinent legislation.