

*Existing policy 1411, adopted 3/19/12, appropriate as written. It is recommended that policy 1411 be amended to incorporate policies 1411.1 and 1411.2 (as modified) as these address the same general topic of relations with law enforcement agencies.*

## Community Relations

### Law Enforcement Agencies/Fire Departments

Because of the many support services which the local law enforcement agencies and fire departments provide to the schools, staff and students, the Board of Education desires to maintain the best possible relationship with those agencies, bearing in mind the responsibility the schools have to see that the legal rights of staff and students are properly protected.

The Superintendent is directed to establish lines of communication with the local law enforcement agencies and Fire Departments in order to effect the kinds of cooperation needed for the security of the school facilities, the safety of students and staff, and better education of the students concerning law enforcement agencies and fire and safety protection.

### Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

The Board of Education recognizes that it is essential to cooperate with law enforcement agencies for the protection of staff and students, for maintaining a safe environment in the district schools and for safeguarding school property.

Programs and activities designed to enrich district curriculum and to develop and promote good citizenship and a healthy attitude toward law enforcement agencies and officials will be encouraged in the district. Law enforcement participation in such programs and activities is encouraged.

At the same time the Board also recognizes that the school system has the responsibility for the welfare of students while they are in the care of the schools. To carry out this responsibility of the school district, school officials shall observe the following:

- a) A student is not immune from the law by virtue of ~~his/her~~ **their** status as a student, nor is the school building a sanctuary from the law or the proper actions of law enforcement personnel. Whenever ~~the police law enforcement~~ have a search warrant or an arrest warrant, ~~they~~ they shall be admitted in the exercise of their designated authority.
- b) In other situations, however, the interest of the individual, the students at large, and the school community may best be served by entrusting primary responsibility for the maintenance of order to school personnel. The Principal(s) shall have the authority, except as noted, to exclude ~~the police law enforcement~~ from the school when ~~police law enforcement~~ intervention is considered unwarranted.

### ~~Police~~ **Law Enforcement** Interviews of Juveniles

When a ~~police-law enforcement~~ investigation involves an interview of a juvenile, ~~the police law enforcement~~ should arrange to have a parent **or legal guardian** present. The exceptions to this requirement **are (a) if the student is being interviewed as a victim and/or (b) is** if there is **an** overriding immediate public safety concern.

The following procedures will be observed in the event of a need to interview or question a student by a ~~police~~ **law enforcement** official.

1. Student(s) will be questioned as confidentially and inconspicuously as possible.

2. The Principal will make a **reasonable considerable** effort to inform parents **or legal guardian** so that they may be present during the questioning.
3. Any **police law enforcement** interview shall be conducted in private and in the presence of a member of the school administration.
4. Preferably, the officer doing the questioning will wear civilian clothes.

The arrest of an elementary school student for a felony or Class A misdemeanor may be considered an unlikely event. However, should that be the case, it is expected that any municipal or State Police Department seeking to arrest a student who is enrolled in the Woodbridge School District shall notify the Superintendent orally prior to or at the time of the arrest, and in writing, within 72 hours of the arrest. Such information shall be kept confidential in accordance with C.G.S. 46b-124.

### **Guidelines for Cooperating with Local and other Law Enforcement Agencies**

#### **Criminal Activity Affecting the Operation of the School**

In certain circumstances the building Principal may require the assistance of **police law enforcement** authorities in the investigation of possible criminal activity affecting the operation of the school. Should **police law enforcement** involvement require the questioning of students on school grounds, the building Principal shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent or guardian of a student to be questioned that such questioning is to take place and the parent or guardian of any such student may be permitted to be present during such questioning.

#### **Criminal Activity Not Involving the Operation of the School**

**Police-Law enforcement** officials interviewing or questioning of students regarding criminal activity not involving the operation of school shall generally not be allowed on school grounds. Where the criminal activity endangered students, disrupted the educational process or violated Board Policy, or where an emergency exists which requires speedy investigation, such questioning or interrogation of students may be allowed to take place with the approval of the Superintendent.

(cf. 6114 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of Education to Prescribe Rules, Policies and Procedures

10-233a-e Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

10-233g Arrested Students/Students on Probation

10-233h (Arrested Students/Reports by Police)

10-233j Student in Possession and Use of Telecommunication Devices

53a-185 Loitering in our about school grounds: Class C Misdemeanor

54-76j Disposition upon adjudication as youthful offender

*New Jersey vs. T.L.O. U.S. 325 (1985)*