

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SRSD File: JIHD

STUDENT INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS

Statement of Policy:

Interviews by School Administrators

When a violation of Board policy or school rules occurs, the school principal or designee may question potential student victims and witnesses without prior consent of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. If a school official is investigating a report of child abuse regarding the student and the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, no contact with the student's family will be made.

Interrogations by School Administrators

In situations where a student is suspected of violating Board policies or school rules, the principal or designee may interrogate / question the suspected student if the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that such a violation has occurred. The nature and extent of the questioning must be reasonably related to the objectives of the questioning. If the student denies any involvement or culpability, the student will have the opportunity to present his or her side of the story, orally or in writing to the proper school administrator.

Interviews and Interrogations by Law Enforcement Officers

Law enforcement officers may wish to interview students regarding their knowledge of suspected criminal activity and may wish to interrogate students who are themselves suspected of engaging in criminal activity. Except when law enforcement officers have a warrant or other court order, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist, such interviews and interrogations are discouraged during the students' class time. The principal and principal's designee have the right and the obligation to take reasonable steps to prevent disruption of school operations and the educational process, while at the same time cooperating with law enforcement efforts. Accordingly, the principal or designee shall work together with law enforcement officers to coordinate efforts and minimize or prevent such disruption in cases of student interviews and interrogations. In the event of disagreement, the principal or designee shall immediately contact the Superintendent or district legal counsel for assistance.

Prior to any interrogation of students by law enforcement, the principal or designee will make a reasonable effort to contact the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to inform them of the pending contact with law enforcement, and allow the parent reasonable time to join their child during that process. An exception to this will be made in line with the first paragraph of this policy in cases of suspected child abuse by a family member.

In the event of any inconsistency between this policy and any memorandum of understanding between the District and local law enforcement agencies, such memorandum of understanding shall control.

Related:

See also: Policy JLF

History:

New: May 15, 2019