

445 RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Wisconsin Rapids Public School District recognizes that cooperation with law enforcement agencies supports the education of students and is necessary for maintaining a safe environment in the district's schools and for safeguarding all school property. The District supports a positive working relationship with law enforcement officers based on mutual reliance. As opined by the Attorney General "[s]chool officials, not unlike the general citizenry, often rely upon law enforcement to aid them in maintaining good order, protecting and ensuring the safety of all students and staff, and maintaining an environment in which education and learning can take place. Law enforcement officers, likewise, rely upon school officials, as they do the general citizenry, to cooperate and aid them in performing their duties and responsibilities." [81 Wis. Op. Att'y Gen. 126 (1994) (OAG 5-94)].

Law enforcement officials will be called upon when laws may have been violated and in situations which threaten the safety of students and/or employees. Students may be interviewed by law enforcement officials in accordance with Board policy and established procedures. Except in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, it is the policy of the district that, as much as possible, law enforcement initiated contact with students should be made outside of the school. All law enforcement initiated interviews of students conducted on school premises for cases not occurring at school or during school-related events shall receive prior approval of the building principal or designee. When it is necessary to make contact in the school for a non-school related incident, the law enforcement agency shall explain to the building principal or designee the reason why a need exists to make contact with the student at school. All student interviews with law enforcement officials conducted on school premises shall receive prior approval of the building principal or designee. All student interviews with law enforcement officers on school premises shall be done at a time and place designated by the building principal or designee with a minimum disruption to the educational program. If a request from a law enforcement official for a student interview is denied, the building principal or designee shall state the reason for such denial. Law enforcement officials may appeal the decision made by the building principal or designee to the district administrator.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 48.19 Wisconsin Statutes
48.981
118.257
81 Wis. Op. Att'y Gen. 126 (1994) (OAG 5-94)

CROSS REF.: 445-Rule, Procedures for Conducting Student-Law Enforcement Interviews on School
Premises
454, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

ADOPTED: November 11, 1974

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