

AP 3306: Police Investigations in Schools

The school is not an appropriate place for the police to conduct interviews of students involved in formal investigations. The district recognizes that there are times of urgency when problems, possibly of a criminal nature, make this necessary. Whenever possible police should speak with students after school hours.

The district considers that it has a responsibility to protect the interests and rights of pupils in its care in a manner consistent with the law. This includes principals of schools acting "in loco parentis" in the absence of parents or guardians and the prompt informing of parents or guardians when pupils' rights or interests are a matter of concern.

Procedures

1. Where the police wish to interview a student suspect on school premises, the principal will determine the appropriateness of conducting the interview on school premises.
2. When the student is of grades K - 7 school age, the parents must be notified prior to the police conducting an interview. The police are to be requested to delay any interview until the parent has been contacted and provided an opportunity to attend.
3. When the student is of grades 8 - 12 school age, where possible, the police are to be requested to delay any interview until the parent has been contacted and provided an opportunity to attend.
4. Where the police wish to conduct an interview with a student witness/potential student witness or student victim on school premises, the principal will determine the appropriateness of conducting the interview on school premises.
5. Except in emergency circumstances, the parents will be contacted prior to the interview taking place.