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| Section | DRAFT POLICIES FOR THE BOARD |
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5540 - **THE SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

The School Board is committed to protect students from individuals not associated with the School Corporation seeking access to students at school, but also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and ~~Child Protective Services~~ **of** the Department of Child Services ~~("CPS")~~ (DCS).

When such agencies request permission to interrogate a student at school, the principal shall request that the agency inform a parent unless the parent is the target of the investigation.

When ~~Child Protective Services (DCS) or a law enforcement agency~~ states a legitimate purpose, such as exigent circumstances as defined by State law, for questioning or examining a student while the student is entrusted to the school corporation, the principal or designee or representative shall be present throughout the proceedings, unless ordered not to be present by a representative of the agency (DCS) or court of law. The ~~principal or designee~~ (Principal) shall not interfere with the interview or examination. ~~if present during the interview or examination.~~

If, the DCS makes a request to interview a student at school alone, this request will only be granted under the following circumstances:

- A. **the DCS employee presents their official credentials as a department caseworker, or other proof of employment with the department upon arrival at the school; and**
- B. **the DCS employee has a written statement that the DCS has parental consent or a court order, or exigent circumstances consistent with State law to interview a student at school. This statement shall not disclose any of the facts of the allegations or evidence and therefore may be transmitted to the Corporation electronically.**

If an electronic statement is submitted regarding need for a DCS employee to interview a student at school, this statement shall not be maintained in the student's file and the Corporation shall protect the student and the student's family's confidentiality regarding the written statement and the interview.

Law enforcement agencies shall be discouraged from interviewing students on school property unless they are investigating an alleged crime that occurred on school property. If a law enforcement agent interrogates a student on school property, no school representative shall be present during the interview. Rather, any such interrogation shall be considered a law enforcement issue handled by the law enforcement agency.

If a student is interrogated by a law enforcement officer on school property and regarding an investigation in which the student may be a suspect, the principal or designee must make an effort to immediately notify the student's parent of the interrogation. If immediate notification is not possible, the principal or designee must notify the student's parent not later than twelve (12) hours after the interrogation occurs.

When an agency removes a student from school, the principal shall notify the student's parent and the Superintendent before the time the student would normally arrive home on that day.

No student shall be released to an agency, other than a law enforcement agency or Child Protective Services, without written parental permission, except in the event of emergency or for the protection of life or property as determined by the principal.

As used in this policy, "student" means any person enrolled in classes other than adult education classes, and is not limited to persons under eighteen (18) years of age.

The Superintendent shall prepare guidelines to promote understanding and cooperation between staff members and students and these agencies.

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