

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUZEKA-STEUBEN**STUDENT QUESTIONING BY NON-SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

The School District of Wauzeka-Steuben is committed to establishing and maintaining a cooperative working relationship with all administrative sanctioned agencies whose representative(s) need/wish to work with students. The District is also interested in ensuring that the rights of students and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are maintained while the student is a responsibility of the District.

All non-school personnel shall comply with the following procedures as they work with District students:

1. Non-school personnel shall make every effort to conduct their business with students at a time other than during normal school hours.
2. Non-School personnel should report to the administrative offices and/or the office of the building principal to request permission to question or interview a student in the building. The school district official shall assume responsibility for finding the student and bringing the student to the administrative offices, or other appropriate space designated by administration, where the interview or questioning will be held in a closed setting, not readily accessible or open to the public view.
3. A District official shall make a reasonable effort to notify the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) in connection with the interview or questioning, except in suspected child abuse circumstances controlled by state law. A District official shall be available to ensure that there is no confrontation during the interview or questioning and to ensure that the student is properly returned to the classroom after the interview or questioning, unless other appropriate legal action is taken.
4. All questioning should be conducted with mutual respect and regard to law enforcement requirements, student rights, parent/legal guardian rights, school board authority, and rights of social services as stated within all current Wisconsin state statutes.
 - a. In cases where students seek out law enforcement officials and request an interview in private, that permission may be granted by the building principal or his/her designee.
5. Law enforcement officers may not remove a student from the school building while the student is properly in attendance unless a warrant is issued for the student's arrest, the student is taken into custody as part of an official investigation by the law enforcement officer, or a student is in a state of emergency, as defined in state law (i.e., the student is mentally ill, drug dependent or developmentally disabled and there is substantial probability of physical harm, either to the student or others), a law enforcement officer or other authorized person may immediately remove the student from the school and place him/her in emergency detention. The student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall be notified as soon as possible of the student's removal from school premises. All information regarding incidents involving a student and a violation of the law or an alleged violation of the law shall remain strictly confidential.
6. Adult students shall be questioned or interviewed only by following the procedures set forth herein. However, the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of an adult student need not be notified by the authorities requesting the interview.

7. When there is a court order authorizing a student interview on school premises, the person authorized by such court order shall inform the principal or his/her designee. If s/he wishes to conduct the interview with the student in private, this will be permitted.
8. Social workers and counselors from agencies outside the school shall counsel with a student only upon receipt of permission to do so by either the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) or the agency holding legal custody.
9. In other situations involving questioning of students by non-school personnel not covered herein, the administrators within the District shall exercise appropriate judgment pertaining to each individual situation. S/he shall make every effort to cooperate with non-school personnel while maintaining the rights of the students.
10. Police Liaison officers are law enforcement officers. They retain their law enforcement authority on school property and are bound by police rules while operating in a school. The questioning of students by the police liaison is no different than that of a non-school law enforcement officer. All staff must go through the school administration before any use of police liaisons occurs with regard to student questioning, investigations, any disciplinary action, or any non-emergency situation.

Legal References: Wisconsin State Statutes §§ Sec. 48.19 and Sec. 48.9, 118.125, 118.257, 118.325, 120.13 (1) (b), 938.195, 946.40, 946.41

Cross References: Policies 446 Student Searches, 454 Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect, 822 News Media Relations, 860 Visitors to the Schools

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Date Reviewed: