

445.1 RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Williams Bay 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.

Law enforcement officials will be called upon when laws may have been violated and in situations that threaten the safety of students and/or employees. Students may be interviewed by law enforcement officials following 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 from 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 from 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 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.

Guidelines for Law Enforcement Officer Interviews of Students

All student interviews will follow the guidelines listed:

1. Interviews should be coordinated with the student's schedule, if possible, to minimize the loss of class time.
2. The principal or appropriate school designee will summon the student from his/her class unless the law enforcement agency and school administration feel the situation warrants personal contact with the law enforcement officer.
3. Interviews shall be conducted in an office setting to promote confidentiality.
4. The building principal or designee may be present during the law enforcement officer interview as determined appropriate by the building principal or designee and consistent with law enforcement agency standards.

5. School officials should attempt to notify a student's parent/guardian as soon as practical when law enforcement officers conduct a student interview, except for cases involving allegations of child abuse or neglect. In cases that occur on the school campus or during a school event where law enforcement has been summoned to protect the health, safety, welfare, and/or property of students, staff, citizens, and/or school facilities, a student interview may be conducted before parent/guardian notification as determined by the building principal or designee.

Except for search and seizure or circumstances that may require a custodial interview, police liaison officers, school safety officers, and other police officers assigned to work with students in the school setting shall communicate and interact with students in the same manner as school personnel.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes Sections 48.19, 48.981, and 118.257 81