

POLICE REQUESTS FOR STUDENT INTERVIEWS	No.: C-317
	Effective: Jan. 25/22 Revised: Reviewed: Dec. 7/21; Dec. 14/21; Jan. 25/22

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

The police shall always be encouraged to conduct interviews outside of school. There are situations that may require different approaches when police may wish to interview a student, such as interviewing a witness at school, interviewing a victim at school and interviewing a suspect at school.

It is for this reason that all police contact with students at school shall occur with the knowledge and consent of the administrator and with prior notice (except in a crisis situation).

Students are not to be arrested at school, unless absolutely necessary.

Requests by police to interview students on school or other District premises are subject to the following:

1. Students are not to be interviewed on school or other District premises, except in the following circumstances:

1.1 In cases where child abuse is suspected, the police and/or social worker may interview the student under the legislative regulation for the protection of children:

“Police officers and child welfare workers have complementary roles in responding to reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Police have authority under the Criminal Code of Canada and the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* to respond:

- when a child or youth is in immediate danger; and
- when a criminal offence against a child or youth is suspected.

When an officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a child’s or youth’s safety or well-being is in immediate danger, the officer has authority to take charge of the child or youth and notify a child welfare worker as soon as possible.

Where a criminal offence against a child or youth is suspected, police may investigate, working in collaboration with child welfare workers.

(See BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect, page 12)

1.2 In an emergent situation where there is no question of compromising the student’s legal rights and where immediate information is necessary for quick action:

1.2.1 When police officials request an interview with a student on school or District premises in accordance with Section 1.2, a Principal or designate must ensure that the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) are contacted immediately.

- 1.2.2 If parent(s) and/or guardian(s) cannot be reached or are unable to attend the interview, the Principal shall request the police officer to delay the interview until such time as the parent(s)/guardian(s) can be contacted or be present.
 - 1.2.3 If this request is refused, then the Principal or designate shall act "in loco parentis". The Principal or designate must sit in on the interview and provide a written report to the parent(s)/guardian(s), with a copy to the Superintendent.
2. A student is not to be released to the custody of other legal authorities in the absence of clear legal authority to do so.
 - 2.1 Any such release shall be in accordance with the District's duty of care for students and any formal regulations governing such release, including notification of parents/guardians/childcare authorities.
 - 2.2 In the case of students of Indigenous ancestry, processes delineated in Local Education Agreements shall be followed.
3. In situations where police wish to have contact with a student at school:
 - 3.1 The Principal shall request that the police complete interviews, question searches and arrests at the student's home or at another location away from school, if possible.
 - 3.2 The school shall make every attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) and confirm whether they wish to attend. The administrator shall document the attempt to make contact.
 - 3.3 The Principal shall determine from the police officer what the nature of the contact will be, and support the student as required.