**WALWORTH POLICY: 445**

**STUDENT INTERVIEWS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY PERSONNEL**

It is the policy of Walworth Jt. District #1 to cooperate with the police, in the investigation of criminal matters in the community. It is of paramount importance that the rights of the school, the home, the civil authorities, and the individual be clearly understood and protected. The Board of Education recognizes that the responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement personnel must be balanced with the district's duty to maintain an appropriate learning environment.

The following guidelines are to be followed by the District Administrator when non-school personnel interview students in school during regular school hours. These guidelines do not apply to interviews conducted by district professional staff.

1. The student(s) will be notified of the interview by school personnel in such a way to

minimize school disruptions. The interview will remain confidential to the extent permitted under state or federal law. Whenever practical, the time and place of interviews will be scheduled by the District Administrator, or his or her designee, after prior notice from the police. The District Administrator shall consider the need for the student interview during the regular school hours and work toward minimizing interviews that disrupt the instructional day. The District Administrator, or his or her designee, shall summon the student from his or her rather than the police officer, unless the police officer and District Administrator or designee feel the situation warrants personal contact by the officer,

2. A reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent or guardian or emergency

contact of the student to inform him or her of the interview and nature of the interview. Such contact is not required when the interview concerns child abuse and/or neglect or a crime by a parent or guardian.

3. The student will be advised that he/she cannot be compelled to talk to the police and

may wish to talk to a lawyer or advocate before deciding whether to talk or not talk with the police.

4. In the absence of a parent/guardian being able to attend the interview, the District

Administrator or his/her designee will be present during the interview, except where excluded by county human services department staff in instances of abuse or neglect.

5. Whenever practical, the time and place of interviews will be scheduled by the District

Administrator after prior notice from the interviewer. The District Administrator, in consultation with the interviewer, will consider the need for the student interview during regular school hours, and work towards minimizing interviews that disrupt the instructional day.

6. If the student is asked by the government agency representative to leave the school

building in their custody, then it will be the responsibility of the government agency, to contact the students' parent or guardian to inform them of this change.

Walworth Jt. District #1 does not discriminate on admissions to any school, class, program, or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, learning, emotional, or mental disability. All discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

LEGAL REFERENCE: PI 9 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code

POLICY APPROVED: October 28, 1996

POLICY REVISED: January 21, 2008; June 28, 2012