

Interviews by Law Enforcement Officers

In cooperation with law enforcement agencies, the School District of Cambridge shall observe the following procedures regarding interviews and removal of students from school during school hours:

- a. If a principal or other administrator determines that an action by a student may be a legal matter for police, the principal or administrator may call the police and request an officer to respond.
- b. Whenever an officer calls at the school to question a student and the officer is not known to a school employee, the employee should request the officer to produce an identification card bearing his/her photograph and full description. If the employee is not an administrator, the employee should seek to involve an administrator.

Absent a warrant, or an emergency circumstance, law enforcement officers will not be allowed to question students without parent permission.

In that school resource officers (SRO) have a unique responsibility and role within our schools, the following rule applies to interviews of students by the school resource officer:

Where acting on their own initiative to further a proper educational environment but with the knowledge and assent of school administration, or at the request of school personnel, SROs may interview students without acquiring permission from parents. Parents should be informed that the SRO was involved in an interview with their child as soon as practical after the interview. If there is the potential for a felony charge, the parent should be notified before being interviewed by law enforcement (including the school resource officer). This requirement of prior permission of the parent may be waived if there is an emergency situation and there is an imminent school/public safety concern.

- c. If there is a felony charge, or if suspicion of a felony is involved regarding the student, the principal shall notify the parent(s)/guardian. In any case in which the officer wishes to take the student out of the school for the parent(s)/guardian to release the student to the officer. However, if the officer actually arrests the student for the commission of a crime, the student is to be released even though the parent(s)/guardian cannot be reached for notification, or having been reached refuses to give his/her consent.

Interviews by Other Individuals

- a. Whenever an individual requests to see a student during school hours, the building principal shall ascertain the nature of the business that the individual, or group, may have with the student, in order to protect the rights of the student.
- b. If there is any indication that the welfare or rights of the student may be in jeopardy, the principal shall first contact the student's parent(s)/guardian and obtain permission for the interview. If such interview relates to investigation of possible child abuse/neglect, however, the student may be interviewed without first contacting the parent(s)/guardian.