

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: 225

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

ADOPTED: July 18, 1994

REVISED: September 17, 2018

225. RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Purpose

The Board recognizes that compulsory attendance laws impose on the Board the custodianship of district students while they are present in the schools.

Authority

It shall be the policy of the Board that cooperation with law enforcement agencies is considered essential for protecting students and staff, maintaining a safe environment in schools, and safeguarding district property.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a memorandum of understanding, re-executed every two (2) years, with local law enforcement officials that establishes guidelines for when law officials will be called to school and the actions that will follow.¹

Guidelines

In-School Interviews/Interrogations

When police request permission to interview/interrogate a student at school, the principal shall inform the Superintendent or his/her designee.

School officials will promptly notify the parent or guardian of any student who is either a victim or a witness when law enforcement officials conduct an interview/interrogation of the student on school property during school hours.

Whenever practical, law enforcement officials will avoid conducting

¹ 24 P.S. 1303-A.

interviews/interrogations of students who are either witnesses or victims on school property when school is in session.

Law enforcement officials shall follow department policy, protocol and/or procedures as well as current law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when conducting interviews/interrogations of students who are either victims or witnesses to ensure the protection of their legal rights.

A school administrator or his/her designee shall be present at all law enforcement interviews/interrogations of student witnesses and/or victims that are conducted on school property during school hours. In the event of a conflict of interest, which is defined as a circumstance where a school district employee, contractor or other person acting on behalf of the school district is the subject of the investigation, the individual who is the subject of the investigation, his/her supervisor and subordinates shall not be present during such interviews/interrogations.

Arrests

In the event law enforcement officials determine that it is necessary to arrest a student at school during school hours, the principal or his/her designee shall be notified.

When the police request permission to arrest a student at school, the principal or designee shall:

1. inform the Superintendent or his/her designee;
2. to the degree possible, determine why such arrest could not be made at the student's home;
3. attempt to inform the student's parents/guardians; and
4. request and inspect the arrest warrant.

No child shall be released to police authorities without proper warrant, appropriate evidence or written parental permission, except in the event of emergency or for the protection of life or property as determined by the principal.