

SERIES 400 – STUDENTS

Student Rights and Responsibilities – 440

Police Interview and Interrogations of Students (445)

The Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District recognizes that cooperation with law enforcement agencies is necessary for the education and protection of students. Also recognized by the school district is its responsibility to protect the educational process and provide for the concerns of parents and guardians regarding the welfare of their children.

Therefore, this policy establishes a consistent police interview process which shall be applied to all children in the school district. These procedures are:

- 1) All student interviews with law enforcement officials conducted on school premises shall receive prior approval of the building principal or designee. If a request for an interview is denied, the principal or designee shall state the reason for the denial. Law enforcement may appeal that decision to the District Administrator.
- 2) For all student interviews, regardless of the student age, a reasonable effort will be made to contact that student's parent or guardian prior to the interview. Reasonable effort is defined as telephone contact at the parent/guardian's home and place of employment. The interview may proceed prior to notification of the parent or guardian if:
 - The situation is determined by law enforcement and administration to require prompt action.
 - The situation is determined to be serious in nature.
 - The attempt to contact the student's parent/guardian has been unsuccessful.

Note – If the parent(s) or guardian(s) are the ones being investigated creating the cause for the interview, the parents will not be contacted.

Note - If the parent is not notified in advance, the building principal or designee will attempt a follow-up phone call and write a letter to the parent/guardian explaining the proceedings in this policy. Also, if the interrogation of the student concerns a child abuse/neglect investigation of the child's parents, the parents will not be notified and the building administrator will sit in on the interview in place of the parent.

Board Policy 445 – Police Interview and Interrogation of Students

(Continued)

- 3) Every effort will be made by administrators and law enforcement to minimize disruption in the school day by:
 - Interviewing during non-instructional time when practical.
 - Law enforcement contacting the parent/guardian prior to arrival at the school.
 - Law enforcement scheduling student interviews during the school day as they could not find student for the interview outside of school time.

- 4) If the parent/guardian can not be present for the interview, the building principal or designee will be present acting as a safeguard for the student's rights.

Legal Reference: Section 48.981 Wisconsin Statutes

Approved: 9/17/07