

POLICY NO. 5160
Adopted: 12-12-79
Revised: 3-12-86

LAW ENFORCEMENT

POLICY:

Whenever it becomes necessary for officials of law enforcement agencies and Children's Protective Services to call upon the schools of Lake Stevens School District in investigative matters, due consideration must be given to assisting and protecting individual children, protecting the interest of the community, and ensuring the rights of all concerned.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

PROCEDURES:

1. It is strongly recommended that agency officials be encouraged to present themselves to the school in a way that does not call undue attention to their presence.
2. The agency official is to present himself to the building principal or his/her designee and offer proper credentials or identification.
3. An interview of a pupil by an agency official should be undertaken only upon permission of the principal or his/her designee and then only if, in the judgment of the principal or his/her designee, the matter is considered to be urgent or a case of reported child abuse. It is preferred that the pupil be interviewed in the offices of the agency or in the pupil's home at a time which does not conflict with the school day for criminal investigation (other than child abuse) of crimes committed off campus.
4. Conditions which may be considered urgent may include those in which a crime has been committed on the school premises, where the official's pursuit of his duties would be seriously hampered by delay, or where the safety of other pupils or the general public may be endangered by delay.
5. The principal will notify the pupil's parent or guardian and obtain permission before the pupil is interviewed by an agency officer, unless the crime is such that contacting the parents prior to the interview would place the child in jeopardy, as in the case of child abuse.
6. When an interview of a pupil at school is necessary, such interview will take place in private with the principal or his/her designee present throughout.
7. Interviews should be limited to a reasonable length of time to ensure thoroughness, but they should not keep a pupil out of his class longer than necessary. Re-interviewing a pupil during school hours should be discouraged except in such instances wherein the principal agrees to a subsequent interview at the school due to the presenting circumstances.

8. Following the interview, the principal must be certain that the pupil's parents or guardian is contacted again and informed of the nature of the interview and any further action contemplated by the school except in the case of child abuse.
9. In the event that the pupil is taken into custody or detained beyond regular hours, the principal must notify the parents or guardian. Detainment or a pupil taken into custody by Child Protective Services will be done by court order.

10. School Records

Academic. The schools may share with agency officers the pupil's academic records, taking care that such information is properly presented and interpreted.

Confidential. Restricted information such as individual psychological evaluations, home visit summaries, medical reports, or other data which is considered confidential, will be released to the agency officer only upon the prior consent of the parent or guardian or upon the presentation of a subpoena.

11. The principal has the authority to decide appropriate action in circumstances not covered by these procedures, but he/she may not interfere with the lawful arrest of a pupil on school premises.