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No. 731 Police Investigations	03/07/96	04/29/97 11/20/07	1 of 2

It is the policy of the Tri-County Regional School Board to care for and protect the rights of Students during police investigations.

NB: In cases of alleged child abuse and/or neglect refer to Policy #732: *Child Abuse and Neglect – Procedure for Investigation.*

PROCEDURE Under Policy 731

Rationale

The Tri-County Regional School Board recognizes that it has a duty to care for and protect the rights of children under its care. In keeping with this recognition, it is mindful that school principals and teachers have an obligation to cooperate with the police, yet at the same time, school principals and teachers must stand ‘in loco parentis’, judiciously guarding the rights of students and constantly watching out for their welfare and well-being. The Board is mindful also that school principals and teachers have the duty and responsibility to handle all in-school problems relating to student discipline, including general misconduct, insubordination, and destruction of school property. The Board expects its professional staff to recognize and exercise common sense and professional judgment in actions involving student discipline and potential police involvement.

1. A school principal may exercise discretion in determining whether to request police assistance to investigate a very serious act committed in the building or on the grounds.
 - a) Parents must be notified and given an opportunity to come to the school.
 - b) The Principal may be present during any investigation and keep a written record of all persons involved and interviews conducted.
 - c) Every effort should be made to ensure confidentiality and the avoidance of unnecessary exposure of the child involved to other students during the investigation process.
 - d) For the purpose of this policy, examples of acts or events that would be considered serious enough to warrant police investigation would include but are not necessarily

limited to serious assaults in which a dangerous weapon may be present; possession of knives, firearms, or explosives; narcotic offenses; indecent assault; and serious vandalism/malicious mischief to school property.

2. Ordinarily it would not be necessary for the police to interview students at school during school hours for unrelated crimes committed outside of school or for acts committed in school during school hours when assistance has not been requested by the Principal.
 - a) If the police deem circumstances warrant the interview of students at school, the police must contact the school regarding the planned visit and inform the principal of the probable cause to investigate, and obtain the Principal's approval.
 - b) The Principal will immediately contact the parents involved and give them the opportunity to come to the school. If the parents cannot or will not come or cannot be contacted, approval to interview the student is to be denied and the student is not to be called from the classroom or otherwise embarrassed or harassed in any way.
3. Ordinarily it should not be necessary for the police to arrest or take custody of a student during school hours at school for acts committed outside of the school or (of a student) for acts committed in school during school hours as reported to the police by the Principal unless the officer is in pursuit and/or has cause to arrest and remove the student from the school premises.
 - a) In cases where the student is to be taken into custody, the principal should be advised.
 - b) The Principal is not to interfere if the police are making an arrest.
 - c) The Principal is to make every effort to immediately inform the parents of the student of the arrest and shall attempt to ensure that the police inform the parents of the arrest.
4. Police officers may not search a school building without warrant or consent. The Principal should obtain the reason for the search before giving approval for consent searches.
 - a) Before consenting to a search of a school building, the Principal should obtain the reason for the search.
 - b) At the time of assigning lockers, students and parents will be notified in writing by the school that lockers are considered school property and therefore subject to search by either Board staff or police. Lockers can be searched without notification to students or parents if deemed necessary by a school principal.
 - c) The student is to be protected from unnecessary embarrassment at all times.
5. Any police investigation is to be reported to the Superintendent of Schools.

cal 07 Oct 15
6/12/08