

445 STUDENT INTERROGATIONS

It is the policy of the School District of Slinger to cooperate, to the greatest extent possible, with representatives of law enforcement and social services organizations who need to interview or question students of the District for official, legitimate concerns within the scope of their work. By promoting such cooperation, it is the District's belief that the overall security and well being of our students, faculty, and community will be promoted. To that end, the District adopts the following policies with respect to student interrogations under such circumstances.

Law Enforcement Interrogations

When requested by law enforcement representatives, District facilities will be made available for questioning of District students. Law enforcement representatives will be asked to make their initial contact with the appropriate administrator of the school in which the student is located. A school representative will then arrange to have the student brought from the classroom to a private location in the administrative offices for purposes of questioning. Law officers will be asked to conduct the questioning in the least obtrusive method, consistent with their duties and obligations under the circumstances.

When appropriate, administrative representatives of the District may enlist the assistance of law enforcement personnel in carrying out an investigation initiated by the District. Under such investigations, the foregoing procedure will similarly be followed for summoning the student from class and interviewing and/or questioning the student in administration offices.

If the subject of the investigation concerns matters related to District operations or concerns, District representatives will ask to be present with the student at the time of the questioning. If the subject of the questioning does not involve District concerns or operations, the administrator may ask to be present during the questioning. In either event, the school administration will abide by the directives of the law enforcement officials.

At the end of the questioning, representatives of the administration will make every effort to notify the parents of the student that the student has been questioned by law enforcement officials and, if permitted, disclose the subject matter of the examination.

Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations

In the event that law enforcement officials or representatives of appropriate social services agencies request the opportunity to interview or question students with respect to any child abuse or neglect allegations, the same procedures as described above for police interrogations shall be followed. The Wisconsin attorney general has issued an opinion in 1990 that §48.981 of the Wisconsin

Statutes permits school personnel to be excluded from such interviews. The opinion further states that public school personnel may not require notification of the child's parents before permitting the child to be interviewed on school property. This policy is intended to be consistent with that opinion.

It is recognized that such investigations may therefore legally exclude representatives of the District. However, in every case of investigation involving child abuse or neglect, a representative of the administration of the school which the child attends shall offer to sit in on any such interviews or interrogations. The district shall abide by any directions from law enforcement or social service departments to be excluded from such interviews. Additionally, if requested by the law enforcement or social services individuals conducting the investigation or interviews, District administration officials shall not notify the parents or guardians of the students, either before or after the interview or investigation.

Reviewed, revised, and approved by the Board of Education on March 21, 2005