

Community Relations

Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

Schools are responsible for students during school hours. This responsibility includes protecting each student's constitutional rights, assuring due process in questioning and arrest, and protecting students from any form of illegal coercion.

When police are investigating possible criminal acts which occurred, or may have occurred, on school property, or while under the jurisdiction of the school district, they may question students at school when the following procedures are observed:

1. Students will be questioned as confidentially and inconspicuously as possible.
2. Every attempt will be made to notify the student's parents prior to the questioning so that they may be present during that process. If a parent cannot be reached, the school Principal, or his/her designee, will be present.
3. Preferably, the officer doing the questioning will wear civilian clothes.

Because of the many support services which local law enforcement agencies provide to the schools, staff, and students, CREC supports the best possible relationship with those agencies consistent with district responsibilities to protect legal rights of staff and students.

The Executive Director/designee is directed to establish lines of communication with local law enforcement agencies to effect necessary cooperation toward ensuring the security of facilities, the safety of students and staff, and for better student education about law enforcement agencies.

(cf. 5145.12 Search/Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C Misdemeanor

54-76j Disposition upon adjudication as youthful offender.

Policy adopted: November 17, 2004

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL
Hartford, Connecticut

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School Police Cooperation

This regulation is intended to balance the needs of school and police officials. The reduction of ambiguity and confusion in how these officials interact will provide an optimal environment for education while ensuring that the public safety needs of the school and community are adequately met.

Generally, police should be notified immediately of any crime. Police will make every attempt to minimize distractions or disruption of school routines during the performance of their duties. There may be instances where the transgression is so slight that the school administrator can resolve the issue himself/herself. Examples of crimes that fall into this category are theft of pocket change, minor vandalism, or minor physical altercations in which there is no injury or pain inflicted upon either participant.

Event	Suggested Action
Vandalism, Breaking, Entering, etc.	Police should be notified immediately. (cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism)
Alcohol, Drugs, etc.	The suspected drug or alcohol should be secured by the building administrator and given directly to the responding police officer. The police officer will sign a receipt and give it to the building administrator. Prescription drugs out of the container should be seized and the prescription confirmed via the subscribing doctor. If the prescription is not valid the drug should be seized and the police notified. (cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco)
Loitering	As long as the school grounds are posted, "no trespassing," warnings prior to arrest are not required. Notification of police and requests for arrest are within the discretion of the building administrator. Administrator should use sound judgment in warning loiters before police are called.

Event	Suggested Action
Confrontations	Confrontations where students become involved in loud tumultuous behavior but do not assault another are a violation of the law and police can arrest for this behavior. The decision to call police and request an arrest is within the discretion of the building administrator.
Assaults	Physical altercations in which students are injured or pain has been inflicted upon another shall be reported to the police as soon as practicable.
Weapons	Confiscated weapons that are illegal in themselves shall be turned over to the police department immediately by the school official who seized same. This category of weapons includes knives with over a four inch blade, dirk knives, switch blade knives, martial arts weapons and guns. Ammunition should also be immediately turned over to the police. Any evidence or information relative to firearms in the school should be immediately relayed to the police. For weapons that are not illegal in themselves but are a violation of school policy, police notification is within the discretion of the school administrator. (cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)
Bomb Scare Suspect Devices	Do not handle suspected devices. Notify CREC Central and police. Police will notify the Fire Department. A building check will be completed. The building administrator will decide whether or not to evacuate following discussions with the police and fire officials. The administrator will notify the Executive Director/designee of his/her decision.

Event	Suggested Action
Civil Disobedience	When known about in advance, school and police should plan beforehand. Picketing is legal, whereas blocking traffic, etc., is illegal.
Motor Vehicles, Parking Lots	Police routinely patrol parking lots and may arrest or summon individuals in said lots. Students involved in motor vehicle accidents in parking lots that result in personal injury or over \$400.00 in damages are required to report same. (cf. 5131.3 - Student Driving/Parking)
Police Interviews	Generally will not take place on school grounds. However, if the police do indicate that an interview on school grounds is necessary, school authorities shall cooperate.
Police Interviews of Juveniles	When the interview involves a juvenile, the police will usually arrange to have a parent present. The exceptions to this rule are (a) if the student is being interviewed as a victim and/or (b) if there is an overriding immediate public safety concern. If a student is being interviewed by the police and the parent/guardian cannot be present, the Principal or his/her designee will be present *.
Child Abuse	School officials will notify the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the police of suspected child abuse cases. If staff members have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused they must report the abuse to the Executive Director/designee who will notify the DCF and police. (cf. 5141.4 - Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect)

*an 18 year old has the right to be interviewed alone

Event	Suggested Action
Extracurricular Activities	Police assigned on site have communications if additional police resources are needed. Police officials assigned to extracurricular activities shall report to the school administrator to discuss appropriate monitoring procedures.
Arrest Warrants	There are times when the police may decide to pick up a student due to a warrant being issued for his/her arrest. The arrested student will be removed from the school in a way that minimizes embarrassment to the student and any disruption of the school routine.
Confidential Police Records	Police officials are prohibited by state and federal law from disclosing confidential juvenile arrest information or using the police computer network to obtain information relative to registration numbers, home addresses, etc.
Search of Students	School officials may search students, bookbags, lockers, desks, etc., using the established "reasonable suspicion" standard. In cases where a student is suspected of carrying a dangerous weapon and there is a safety issue inherent in the search process itself, if practicable the police shall conduct the search after the student is secured in an office. (cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Notification of a Student's Arrest

Pursuant to the requirements of C.G.S. 10-233h, whenever the Executive Director/Assistant Executive Director receives oral, followed by written, notification from the local police department or state police that a student was arrested for a Class A misdemeanor, a felony, or for selling, carrying, or brandishing a facsimile firearm, he/she shall maintain the written report in a secure location and the information in the report shall be maintained as confidential in accordance with C.G.S. 46b-124. The Executive Director/Assistant Executive Director may disclose such information, when reported during the school year, only to the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled or to the supervisory agent of any other school in which the student is enrolled.

The Principal or supervisory agent may disclose such information only to special service staff or a consultant, such as a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker, for the purposes of assessing the risk of danger posed by the person to himself or herself other students, school employees or school property and effectuating an appropriate modification of such person's educational plan or placement, and for disciplinary purposes. If the arrest occurred during the school year, such assessment shall be completed no later than the end of the next school day. Such information with respect to a child under eighteen years of age shall be confidential in accordance with C.G.S. 46b-124 and C.G.S. 54-76l and shall only be disclosed as provided in this paragraph and shall not be further disclosed.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.
 10-233a through 10-233s re student suspension, expulsion.
 10-233g(b) Boards to report school violence.
 10-233h Arrested students. Reports by police to the superintendent, disclosure, confidentiality.
 17a-101 Protection of children from abuse.
 17a-102 Report of danger of abuse.
 46b-124 Confidentiality of records of juvenile matters. Exception
 53-206c Sale, carrying and brandishing of facsimile firearms prohibited. Class B misdemeanor.
 53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C Misdemeanor.
 Reports of principals to police authority.
New Jersey v T.L.O., 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1988), 469 U.S. 325; 105 S.Ct 733.
 54-76j Disposition upon adjudication as youthful offender.

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