

Community Relations

School System and Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation

1411
pg. 1 of 5

Schools are responsible for assuring the safety and protecting the constitutional rights of students and staff during school hours.

The Superintendent of Schools is directed to establish lines of communication with local law enforcement agencies to effect necessary cooperation toward ensuring the security of the school facilities, the safety of students and staff, and for better student education about law

Events occurring while student or staff are under the jurisdiction of school system:

If police must or are requested to investigate possible criminal acts which occurred, or may have occurred, on school property, or while under the jurisdiction of the school district, the following guidelines are to be observed:

1. Questioning of a student or staff member in the school or on school premises will be done only in the presence of a designated school official. Where possible, the police officer will wear civilian clothing when conducting an interview on school premises.
2. In the case of a student, every effort will be made to include the parent or guardian of a student in any hearing which carries an implication of a possible allegation of guilt or the furnishing of information leading to an indictment. The student's right to remain silent or to speak through an attorney or parent may not be abridged.
3. If an interview of either staff or student is conducted, the designated official of the school will maintain an informal record of the interview showing the time, place, persons attending the interview, and a summary of the discussion and finding.
4. In case of emergency, or of clear and present danger, the schools will cooperate with the police. Preferably, the officer conducting the interview will wear civilian clothes.
5. In the event of severely disruptive behavior by a student, the Vernon Board of Education will consider the expulsion of a student after due process.

Community Relations

School System and

Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation – continued

1411

pg. 2 of 5

6. Local and regional boards of education must notify the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of any expulsion from school when it is determined that the student was involved in the sale or distribution of a controlled substance. The Board will refer the pupil to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention, or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. In its notice to the Commissioner, the Board of Education must give the name of the pupil and a summary of the Board's action in so referring a pupil to an agency.
7. The possession/use of weapons on school vehicles, school property or at school related events is prohibited. Such weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, explosives or any object used as a weapon. It is forbidden to use any substance, material or object to threaten or to cause or attempt to cause bodily harm to one's self or to another person or to the property of the Board of Education or to the personal property of another.

Failure to comply with this regulation will result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension from school or expulsion from school. The assistance of the police will be sought, and the appropriate charges will be filed by the school administration against anyone who interferes with the safe and orderly operation of the school .

Events occurring while student is under the jurisdiction of the school system

Students are subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion for misconduct and inappropriate behavior which is considered disruptive to the safe and orderly environment of the school or interferes with student learning.

Events occurring while student is not under jurisdiction of the school system

It is the policy of the Vernon Board of Education that students are subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion for misconduct and inappropriate behavior, even if such behavior occurs off school property or during non-school time if the behavior is considered disruptive to the safe and orderly environment of the school or interferes with student learning.

The types of off-school premises misconduct that may result in such discipline include, but are not limited to, the violation of the state criminal statutes.

Community Relations

School System and Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation- continued

1411
pg. 3 of 5

Police Interviews

1. Police interviews generally will not take place on school grounds. However, if the police do indicate that an interview on school grounds is necessary, the Board of Education's guidelines will be consulted. School authorities shall cooperate within the Police requirements of the law.
2. 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 under the age of 16 is being interviewed by the police and the parent/guardian cannot be present, the student may request that a member of the school staff be present.

Child Abuse

School officials will notify the Department of Children and Families (D.C.F.) and the police of suspected child abuse cases. If staff members have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused by a school employee, they must report the abuse to the Superintendent who will notify the D.C.F and police. (cf. 5141.4 - Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect)

Extracurricular Activities

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 the warrant being issued for his/her arrest. Once the school is notified of an outstanding Arrest Warrant for a student, the student should be escorted from class by school personnel and remain in a secured office until the police arrive. 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.

Community Relations

School System and Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation – continued

1411
pg. 4 of 5

Search of Students

School officials may search students, book-bags, lockers, desks, etc., if, at the inception of the search, the officials believe that the search will produce evidence that school rules or the law have been violated. In cases where a student is suspected of carrying a dangerous weapon, and there is a safety issue inherent in the search process itself, the police should conduct the search after the student is secured in an office. (cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure).

Lockers and desks are school property which are loaned to the student and are subject to searches at any time.

Notification of a Student's Arrest

Pursuant to the requirements of PA 94-221, whenever the Superintendent receives oral or written notification from the local police department or state police that a student was arrested, the Superintendent shall maintain the written report in a secure location and the information in the report shall be maintained as confidential in accordance with section 46b-124. The Superintendent may disclose such information only to the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled or 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, other student school employees or property and effectuating an appropriate modification of such person's educational plan or placement for disciplinary purposes. Such information with respect to a student under sixteen years of age shall be confidential in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 46b-124 and shall only be disclosed as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed.

Community Relations

School System and Law Enforcement Agency Cooperation – continued

1411
pg. 5 of 5

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
 - 53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C Misdemeanor. Reports of principals to police authority.
 - 53-206c Sale, carrying and brandishing of facsimile firearms prohibited. Class B misdemeanor.
- New Jersey v T.L. O.*, 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1988), 469 U.S. 325; 105 S.Ct 733.
- PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Security.
 - 54-76j Disposition upon adjudication as youthful offender.