



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."

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VIA: Email

March 3, 2023

Dear SD54 Parents &/or Guardians and Policy Stakeholders,

Consultation on Policy Revisions

Policy revision continues to be ongoing focus of the Board of Education and the Board values the consultative input of its stakeholders throughout the process.

Attached you will find the following policy that has undergone a significant revision by the policy committee. We would appreciate your consideration and comments with respect to this policy.

1) Policy # 9.400 – Interview of Students by Outside Agencies

The Policy # 9.400 amendment is required due to the original policy being very outdated.

We would appreciate receiving your comments prior to Thursday, April 7th, 2023. It is our hope to present final draft revisions to the Policy Committee on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 and seek board approval at the April 25th, 2023 board meeting. You would be welcome to attend both committee and board meetings.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself directly at 250-877-6825.

Yours truly,

Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer
School District #54(Bulkley Valley)

/bk

Attachments

cc: M. McDiarmid, Superintendent of Schools
M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
Policy Committee

Board of Education
School District 54 (Bulkley Valley)

INTERVIEW OF STUDENTS BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

9.400

POLICY

The school administration is responsible for protecting students' legal rights while they are in the school's care. Principals shall ensure that proper procedural safeguards are observed, and that concerted efforts are made to have the student's parent, guardian, or other adult relative present (or at least notified) before any interview or interrogation or arrest takes place.

Persons or agencies other than the R.C.M.P. and M.C.F.D. making requests to interview a student are expected to have written permission from the parent or guardian.

VALUES

In its consideration of this policy, the Board of Education was guided by its responsibility to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place and the District and outside agencies respect the legal rights of Children.

GUIDELINES

Other than in emergencies, agencies should be advised that the school authorities would prefer that interviews be conducted outside of school hours and if possible off district property.

Principals receiving requests from agencies to interview students on school premises should normally advise the student's parent or guardian of the following:

- a request to interview the student;
- a request for the student to leave the school premises.

A parent or guardian should be present at such an interview (as required in the case of Juvenile Court).

In no case should the principal or teacher assume this parental responsibility without parent permission.

In cases of suspected child abuse and/or neglect, policy, statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse shall prevail.

Amended: xxxx, 2023
Amended: August 25, 1998 (Originally Police Interview of Students)
Amended: September 23, 1997 (Originally named Police Interview of Students)
Adopted: October 16, 1990 (Originally named Police Interview of Students)

POLICE INTERVIEW OF STUDENTS

Policy

No student shall be interviewed or interrogated on school premises by police officers without a parent or guardian present, except in the following circumstances:

- a) In cases where child abuse is suspected, the police and/or social worker may interview the student under the legislative mandate for the protection of children; and,
- b) When required by police under Criminal Code (129b), which states that police have the right to require others to assist them when arresting a person or preserving the peace. Should this occasion arise, the administrator should request the interview be delayed until such time as the school can obtain the presence of the parent or guardian.

Other than in emergencies, police should be advised that school authorities would prefer that interviews be conducted outside of school hours and, if possible, at the student's residence.

School-Related Investigations

- In facilitating police access to student witnesses, victims and suspects in a school-related investigation, the administrator is exercising his/her authority for school purposes.
- The police are expected to advise a student between the ages of 12 – 17, of his/her right to consult with a lawyer, a parent, or other appropriate adult selected by the student.
- The administration is required to contact the parents, even if the student indicates he does not intend to consult with them. If the student objects to parents being notified, the student is to make arrangements with the police to be interviewed at another location.
- Administration and staff members should not accept the role of "appropriate" adult in the investigation of a school-related incident.
- Students who wish to obtain legal advice can do so by calling the "Brydges" line staffed through the Legal Service Society (1-888-978-0050)