

Pittsfield School District

STUDENT INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS

Interviews by School Administrators. When a violation of Board policy or school rules occurs, the dean of operations, other school administrator, and/or designee may question potential student victims and witnesses without prior consent of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. If a school official is investigating a report of child abuse regarding the student and the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, no contact with the student's family will be made.

Interrogations by School Administrators. In situations where a student is suspected of violating Board policies or school rules, the dean of operations, other school administrator, and/or designee may interrogate the suspected student if the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that such a violation has occurred. The nature and extent of the questioning must be reasonably related to the objectives of the questioning. If the student denies any involvement or culpability, the student will have the opportunity to present his or her side of the story, orally or in writing, to the proper school administrator.

Interviews and Interrogations by Law Enforcement Officer. Law enforcement officers may wish to interview students regarding their knowledge of suspected criminal activity and may wish to interrogate students who are themselves suspected of engaging in criminal activity. Except when law enforcement officers have a warrant or other court order, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist, such interviews and interrogations are discouraged during the students' class time.

The dean of operations, other school administrator, and/or designee have the right and the obligation to take reasonable steps to prevent disruption of school operations and the educational process, while at the same time cooperating with law enforcement efforts. Accordingly, the dean of operations, other school administrator, and/or designee shall work together with law enforcement officers to coordinate efforts and minimize or prevent such disruption in cases of student interviews and interrogations. In the event of disagreement, the dean of operations, other school administrator, and/or designee shall immediately contact the superintendent or district legal counsel for assistance.

Adopted: December 20, 2018