

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: JIHD
Policy Committee: August 8, 2015 School Board First Read: April 15, 2015 School Board Second Read/Adoption: May 6, 2015	Page 1 of 1 Category: Optional

STUDENT INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS

It is the policy of the Oyster River Cooperative School District to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

Interviews by School Administrators

When a violation of Board policy or school rules occurs, the school principal 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 principal 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 Officers

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 principal and principal's 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 principal 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 principal or designee shall immediately contact the Superintendent or district legal counsel for assistance.

Privacy: Except in an emergency or other circumstances justifying other action, the student should be summoned to the school administration office so that the law enforcement contact or arrest does not occur in the presence of the other students. The entire matter should be handled in a manner calculated to minimize embarrassment of the student and the need to provide confidentiality for the "minor" student.

It is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer to meet any legal requirements from a law enforcement perspective relating to advising a student of constitutional or statutory rights.

Cross Reference:

- JIH – Student Searches and Their Property
- JICI – Weapons on School Property
- JIHB – Searches of Student Automobiles on School Property