

## **Students**

### **Police in Schools**

Board policy seeks to protect the school community in two ways: first, to insure that school authorities have the tools necessary to protect everyone's safety, including students, faculty, staff, and volunteers; and second, to protect the rights of students.

South Windsor Public Schools works cooperatively with the South Windsor Police Department through participation in the School Resource Officer Program. This includes police officers who have received specialized training as "School Resource Officers." These officers may be assigned to the South Windsor High School and Middle School. They assist in ensuring the security of our school buildings and grounds. It is not unusual for police officers to patrol both the interior and exterior of our school facilities from time to time.

This policy shall clarify the role of police within the school buildings, specifically concerning police actions within the schools. In administering this policy the building principal or his/her designee will determine the authenticity of the police officer by requesting to see the officer's credentials prior to allowing questioning of the student.

### **Investigation**

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

1. Students will be questioned as confidentially and inconspicuously as possible.
2. An attempt will be made to notify the student's parents/guardians so that they may be present during the questioning.
3. The school principal, or his/her designee, will be present.

When investigating a possible criminal violation occurring off school grounds or not part of a school program, police will be encouraged to question students in their homes; however, they may be permitted to question students in the schools when procedures 1 and 2 above have been observed. Procedure 3 will not be required if a parent/guardian is in attendance.

There may be times when a police officer is involved in investigating a report of child abuse or neglect. The procedures for responding to concerns related to child abuse and neglect are outlined in policy *5016 Child Sexual abuse and Assault* and these investigations procedures may not apply.

These investigation procedures apply only when the police are conducting an investigation into criminal conduct and do not apply in any way to a school administrator's investigation into a possible discipline matter, even if the School Resource Officer is involved in the administrator's investigation.

### **Removing Students from School**

In the absence of the specific consent of parent or guardian, police officers shall not be permitted to remove a student from the school building for purposes of interrogation, however, police officers, counselors of the juvenile court, or other authorized law enforcement officials have the right to enter the school to take a student into custody or to make a lawful arrest of a student.

If the student is arrested or taken into custody at a school, the school officials shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, relative or responsible caregiver of the minor regarding the release of the minor to such officer, and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken.

### **Serving a Subpoena at School**

While police officers have the legal right to serve a subpoena at school, the district strongly urges officials to serve these subpoenas at the home of the student whenever possible. If this is not possible then the subpoena may be served only in the school office in the presence of the school principal or designee.

Policy Adopted: January 22, 2019