



*Center Area  
School District*

SECTION: PUPILS  
 TITLE: STUDENTS AND THE POLICE  
 ADOPTED: JANUARY 22, 2004  
 REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Authority</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">225. STUDENTS AND THE POLICE</p> <p>The Board recognizes that compulsory attendance laws impose on the Board the custodianship of the public school children of the district while they are present in the schools.</p> <p>It is the desire of the district to cooperate fully with all law enforcement agencies in the community, always keeping in mind the rights of pupils and parents. This cooperation must be in harmony with the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Pennsylvania and should provide as little disruption of the school program as is possible.</p> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <p>Interviews of pupils by law enforcement officers, who show proper identification, will be permitted during the school day only when interviews during non-school hours are impossible, impractical, or would unduly interfere with law enforcement. Whenever possible, the police officer should first contact the principal's office by telephone to inform the principal of a planned visit. Efforts should be made to notify the parent, guardian, or other adult person having the care and custody of the child. The principal, or the person designated to act for the principal in his/her absence, should be present during all interviews. No interview of pupils will be conducted without explicit permission from the parent or guardian unless they cannot be reached after both the police and school have exhausted all known numbers.</p> <p>In emergency situations, where a delay could hinder a criminal investigation, the police must be given reasonable and prompt access to students suspected of possessing information about the crime committed.</p> <p>All procedural safeguards prescribed by law must be strictly observed. A law enforcement officer shall not be permitted to interview a child during school hours concerning any activity of the child's father or mother or other member of his/her family.</p> <p><u>Removal From School</u></p>
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In the event it becomes necessary to interview the student away from school, the parents will be notified of the time and place of the interview. The student will be accompanied to and from the place of interview by either the parents or a member of the school staff.

If it becomes necessary to make apprehension during school hours, the police officer should contact the principal to have the child summoned to the principal's office before being released from school into the custody of the police. All steps should be taken to avoid embarrassment of any child by the appearance of an officer in the classroom. The arresting officer shall sign a student release form.

Legal warrants for the arrest of a pupil, presented by a law enforcement officer to the principal, must be honored by the principal.

In no event shall a principal release custody of a child, except by virtue of an order of court.

Criminal Acts Within the School

The school principal shall cooperate to the fullest extent in support of the Police Department in the prosecution of persons charged with violation of the law taking place on the school property.