

ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: STUDENTS AND POLICE
ADOPTED: 2/22/01
REVISED: 8/27/15

225. STUDENTS AND POLICE

Section 1: Purpose

To promote safety in the environment in which education and school sponsored activities occur, the Board has established this policy to assist in the establishment of a cooperative relationship between the Allentown School District and the Allentown Police Department.

Section 2: Authority

To facilitate cooperation, the procedures agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Allentown School District and Police Department, which was written to comply with applicable laws, will be followed. SC 1317.2

Section 3: Guidelines

The appropriate District and school personnel, as defined in these procedural guidelines and in Administrative Regulations, will:

1. Cooperate with law enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of criminal activity, the serving of warrants by the police, the investigation of perpetrators, and where appropriate, the apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators. These shared efforts will take into consideration what causes the least disruption of the school environment. Except as is necessary to protect the interests of the school district, the District personnel will defer to the expertise of the police in these matters.
2. Collaborate with the police in providing programming which includes but is not limited to the School Resource Officer Program, Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) program, the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program, and truancy prevention.
3. Report to the police all student actions in violation of law. Reporting will be in a timely manner, which permits effective police investigation, and shall include all incidents of:
 - a. Violations of the District's Weapons Policy,
 - b. Violations of the District's Substance Abuse Policy,
 - c. Discipline violations for which the District's Code of Conduct requires reporting to the police,
 - d. Threats of homicide or other violent acts (See also District's Critical Incident Guidelines),
 - e. Child abuse, as required in Policy 806,
 - f. Suspected gang related activity as required in Policy 249, and
 - g. Hate crime incidents as required in Policy 249.
4. Contact the police immediately, to report stalking, strangers following or propositioning students, and any other situation which appears to pose a risk to the safety of the student.
5. Surrender all contraband to the police. This includes contraband found or obtained on school or other District property, in school vehicles, and at school events. These items will be surrendered to the investigating officer.

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6. Defer to the police in matters requiring police involvement and threatening the safety of the school community. When the police take charge of a school related situation, school personnel will continue to provide support and assistance during the situation.
7. Request that any police officer:
 - a. Report to a school administrator upon entering a school
 - b. Carry out her/his duties, on District property, in a manner which minimizes the disruption of the school environment
 - c. Adhere to all District regulations regarding access to students during the school day (see below)

For an Interview of a student, on school property, by a police officer:

1. The nature and urgency of the investigation will determine when and how the interview will occur. An interview will be conducted with as little disruption of the school environment as possible.
2. The school or District administrator and police officer will decide collaboratively on the timing and manner of notice to the parent/guardian. When advisable, the parent/guardian will be contacted prior to the interview and offered the opportunity to be present during the interview.
3. Unless a parent/guardian is present during an interview, the Principal or Principal's designee will be present during the interview on school property, of any student under eighteen (18) years of age.
4. If the matter being considered concerns child abuse, any decision regarding the notification of a parent/guardian will be based on information provided by the Office of Children and Youth, the police and the District. District personnel will cooperate in any investigation concerning child abuse.

For police taking custody of a student:

1. If, as part of an investigation, the police require the assumption of custody of that student, District personnel will cooperate in the release of that student to the police.
2. The District acknowledges the police authority to act on behalf of Lehigh County's Office of Children and Youth to take a student into custody.
3. The Principal or Principal's designee and the police officer will collaborate in deciding on the manner of notification to the parent/guardian of a student removed from school by the police officer.
4. Safety and other concerns may require immediate action; however, the removal of a student by a police officer will take into consideration what will minimize embarrassment to the student being removed and what will minimize disruption of the school environment.