

## **Relations with Public Agency Personnel (Administrative Procedure)**

It is the intent of the school district to cooperate with local law enforcement and other public agency personnel in the performance of their civic duties and responsibilities. At the same time, the school administration must assure the full protection to students, parents and staff which the school district has a responsibility to provide. Therefore, school administrators and staff are directed to follow these procedures in cooperating with law enforcement and other public agency personnel:

1. School district personnel will promptly report suspected cases of child abuse, neglect, or criminal actions to the Rio Grande County Department of Social Services or a law enforcement officer in accordance with statutory requirements, and shall cooperate in the investigation of such reports while assuring that the student, parental, and individual staff member rights are protected. The school administrator or his or her designated representative shall be present during the investigation of any child abuse case performed at the school by the Department of Social Services or a law enforcement officer.
2. No student under the age of 18 years, while in the care of the school district, shall be released into the custody of personnel from any agency without parental knowledge and permission unless there is a valid court order or unless the student is placed under arrest by a law enforcement officer, or unless the law enforcement officer takes the child into custody where he or she is seriously endangered and immediate removal appears to be necessary for his or her protection in accordance with the provisions of CRS 19-3-401(l)(a). In such cases, the law enforcement officer will be requested to sign a form indicating the basis upon which he or she is removing the child from school.
3. Law enforcement or other public agency personnel will not be allowed to question any student under the age of 18 years, while in the care of the school district, without parental knowledge and permission if that student is a suspect in a crime.
4. While the school recognizes the statutory mandates of the Department of Social Services and law enforcement to investigate cases involving the welfare of children and criminal activity, the school will request the Department of Social Services or law enforcement to contact the parents prior to any questioning of the students performed at the school, unless the parents are suspects of a crime. Any such questioning shall be performed outside the presence of other students and in an environment least obstructive to school activity.
5. The school district will comply with all legal requirements concerning student and staff records including those provisions which require a signed release before records may be examined or copied.

Adopted: 01/28/88

Reviewed by Board: 12/12/13