

Policy Statement

Eastern School Board shall support police visitations and investigations on school property and at school activities, functions and events in accordance with the legal requirements of federal and provincial legislation, especially the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Rationale

In keeping with a safe, caring and socially just environment, the Eastern School Board is committed to ensuring that the principles of freedom, justice, equality and due process are followed relative to all aspects of board policies, procedures and personnel. It is essential that guidelines be established relative to police visitations and investigations during the school day and on school property. Eastern School Board also recognizes that it has a duty to assist the police in carrying out their legitimate duties and responsibilities.

Scope

This policy and relevant administrative regulations shall be applicable to all students and personnel of Eastern School Board.

Procedure

1. The CEO/Director of Education will establish administrative procedures to provide guidance in delineating the intent of this policy.
2. These regulations will be reviewed annually by the CEO/Director of Education in consultation with Administrative Council.
3. Law enforcement officials are expected to conduct investigations with students off property and out of school hours.
4. Notwithstanding procedure # 3, it may be deemed necessary and/or prudent to interview a student while in attendance at school. It is appropriate for the police to conduct investigative interviews on school property in the following situations:

- (a) The police officer is accompanying an investigator under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act.
 - (b) In cases when the police investigation has been initiated through a complaint originating from the principal.
 - (c) The police officer presents a valid warrant authorizing the investigation.
 - (d) The school principal and/or the police officer have reason to believe that a criminal offense is being committed.
 - (e) The school principal has reason to believe that the subject of a police investigation will flee police once off school grounds.
5. The principal shall ensure, when the subject of a police investigation is a student, that the student has been informed of his/her rights.
 6. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 18 shall be contacted prior to any interview. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of such students will be asked if they wish to be present for the interview. In cases when the parent(s)/ guardian(s) have expressed a desire to be present, the principal will ensure that the interview is not conducted until they arrive. In cases where the parent/guardian is unable to be present the principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, with parental consent, may monitor the investigative interview
 7. It is understood that there are situations, such as child abuse investigations, when it would not be appropriate to make prior contact with the home. In such cases the principal will ensure that the Child, Youth and Family Services investigator presents the appropriate authorizing documentation.

Authority: Eastern School Board
Legal Reference:
Cross Reference: The Schools Act, 1997

Date Approved by the Board: August 17, 2005
Date of Amendments: June 13, 2007