**Child Abuse Investigation**

When a representative of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) or another lawful authority desires to question or interview an allegedly victimized student at school as part of a child abuse or neglect investigation of the subject student, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. The principal shall verify and record the identity of the DFPS representative or other lawful authority before the interview with the student.

2. The principal shall verify that the student is the subject of the abuse or neglect investigation.

3. The principal may request that a school official be present during the interview. However, a school official shall not deny access to the student or prohibit the interview if the request for a school official to attend the interview is denied.

4. The principal shall cooperate fully with the official’s requests regarding the conditions of the interview or questioning.

**Other Questioning of Students**

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities desire to question or interview a student at school for any purpose other than a child abuse or neglect investigation of the subject child, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. The principal shall verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.

2. The principal ordinarily shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student’s parents or other person having lawful control of the student, which includes attempted notification via telephone or e-mail within 24 hours. If the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to the notification, the parents shall not be notified.

3. The principal or a designee ordinarily shall be present during the questioning or interview. If the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to a third party’s presence, the interview shall be conducted without that person’s presence.

**Students Taken into Custody**

Before a student at school is arrested or taken into custody by a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal shall verify the official’s identity. To the best of his or her ability, the principal shall verify the official’s authority to take custody of the student [see GRA] and then shall deliver over the student.

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*DATE ISSUED: 5/12/2009*

*UPDATE 85*

*GRA(LOCAL)-A*
The principal shall immediately notify the Superintendent and ordinarily shall notify the parents or other person having lawful control of the student. If the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents at that time, the principal shall not notify the parents.

[See FO series for notification requirements by the campus behavior coordinator under Education Code Chapter 37.]

**Effective Date**

This policy shall be effective as of the adoption date, December 10, 2021.