

COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

1.0 PURPOSE:

It is the desire of the Wirt County Board of Education to cooperate fully with all law enforcement agencies. One of the primary objectives of an education is to produce responsible citizens who will respect the rights of other persons and the property belonging to others. Police departments exist to protect all citizens. Police have the responsibility to enforce laws in order to protect all citizens. Police can enter schools if they suspect a crime has been committed, if they have a warrant for an arrest or search, or if their assistance has been requested by school officials. Consistent with personal rights and freedoms, schools have a responsibility to see that the personal rights guaranteed each citizen of the United States are not violated because police wish to interrogate a pupil during school hours. It is the duty of the school officials, teachers, and students to cooperate with the police and each other to ensure that the rights of all involved persons are respected.

2.0 PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 Police Conducting an Investigation in the School: During a criminal investigation, if a student is to be questioned by the police, or by school officials in the presence of the police, the school administration should cooperate with the police and help to ensure that the privacy of the student is protected. The police officer is responsible to ensure that the student's constitutional rights are not violated. The police officer is responsible for determining if the student's parents or guardian, or lawyer should be contacted prior to the questioning. The police officer shall determine when the use of restraints is necessary during such questioning to control an unruly student to prevent the student from harming him/herself or others.
- 2.2 Students suspected of non-school related incidents, and such incidents appear to be non-serious in nature which have occurred outside of school time, and for which school authorities have not summoned the police, shall be interviewed after school hours, away from school. In all cases of interviews involving minors, the police officer shall notify the parent or guardian.

3.0 COORDINATION WITH PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:

- 3.1 The Prosecuting Attorney is the attorney of record for the board of education.
- 3.2 The Prosecuting Attorney coordinates services for students with the school district through the Multi-Disciplinary Team.
 - 3.2.1 The team meets monthly and reviews student attendance and disciplinary cases to provide a smooth continuum of services between the BOE and the Juvenile Court System.
 - 3.2.2 The Chief Juvenile Probation Officers of the 4th circuit are an integral component of this process and follow-up with Truancy Diversion Conferences at the schools, when necessary.

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4.0 COORDINATION WITH SHERIFF AND STATE POLICE

- 4.1** The Wirt County Sheriff's department is a valuable resource for Wirt County Schools. School protocol for Crisis Response Plan is a shared document between all emergency services and law enforcement. This document has been created by all parties to prepare for any emergency situation through collaboration between all parties
- 4.2** Emergency Response Plans are updated through the countywide safety committee that meets quarterly.
- 4.3** A specialized program for the care of children is conducted by the WV State Police called Handle With Care. This project is designed to inform school personnel of any events involving a child whereby a child will need additional support throughout the school day.
 - 4.3.1** Contact person for school information is the superintendent of schools.
- 4.4** The Sheriff's department, through Juvenile Justice Grants, can operate a school PRO officer program whereby a deputy sheriff can work within the local high school.

5.0 SEVERABILITY:

If any provision of this policy or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy. A change or addendum to WV Code or policy shall necessitate a change based upon superintendent's discretion.

REVIEW SCHEDULE:

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with the policy review schedule published by the Superintendent.

Authority: WVBOE Policy 4373 and WCS J-01

Replaces: Wirt BOE Policy LDAJ-R, Police Department Relations, January 11, 1999