

**Policy Statement:** Western School District shall support police and/or Child Youth and Family Services social workers/managers visitations and investigations on school property and at school-related events in accordance with the legal requirements of federal and provincial legislation, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

### **1. Application**

This policy applies to all staff and students in the Western School District.

### **2. Rationale**

In keeping with a safe, caring and socially just environment, the Western School District is committed to ensuring that the principles of freedom, justice, equality and due process are followed relative to all aspects of District policies, procedures and personnel. It is essential that guidelines be established relative to police visitations and investigations, and investigations conducted by Child Youth and Family Services (CYFS) during the school day and on school property. Western School District also recognizes that it has a duty to assist the police and social workers in carrying out their legislative duties.

### **3. Procedures**

- 3.1 Law enforcement officials are expected to conduct investigations with students off property and outside of school hours.
- 3.2 Notwithstanding 3.1, it may be deemed necessary and/or prudent to interview a student while in attendance at school. It is appropriate for the police and social workers to conduct investigative interviews on school property in the following situations:
  - a) The police officer is accompanying a social worker/manager during an investigation under the *Children and Youth Care and Protection Act*.
  - b) In cases when the police/CYFS investigation has been initiated through a complaint originating from the principal.
  - c) A police officer presents a valid warrant for a search, seizure and/or arrest.
  - d) The school principal and/or the police officer have reason to believe that a criminal offense is being committed on school grounds at the time.

e) The school principal has reason to believe that the subject of a police investigation will flee from police once off school grounds.

3.3 The parent/guardian of students under the age of 18 shall be contacted prior to any interview. The principal shall ask the parent/guardian of such students whether they wish to be present for the interview. In cases when the parent/guardian has expressed a desire to be present, the principal shall ensure that the interview is not conducted until they arrive. In cases where the parent/guardian is unable to be present, the principal, vice-principal or guidance counselor, with parental consent, may accompany the student during the interview.

3.4 Notwithstanding Section 3.3, it is recognized that there will be situations in which it may not be appropriate to contact a parent/guardian prior to an interview with a student (e.g., child abuse investigations involving allegations against a parent/guardian). The *Children Youth Care and Protection Act*, Section 14(1)(b), requires schools to permit a CYFS social worker or manager to visit, observe and interview a child in private, where a child is located, when deemed appropriate by Child Youth and Family Services. A CYFS social worker is authorized to prohibit any parent or school staff from being present during an interview, if they deem it necessary.

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