



Chilliwack School District
"Partners In Learning"

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 503.1

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS BY POLICE IN SCHOOLS

The statements below are intended to guide principals in responding to requests from police to interview students either as suspects or accused or as victims or witnesses.

1. A principal should dissuade the police from conducting an interview of a suspect or accused at the school. If the police insist on interviewing a student at school and they have not already made arrangements with the parent/guardian to attend, then the principal should request that it be delayed until the parent has been informed and been given the opportunity to attend. If the interview can be delayed and the parent is able to attend, then there need not be any further involvement by the principal or other school official.
2. In the absence of a parent, a principal should provide personal consultation and/or attend an interview of a student who is a suspect or accused, but only if requested by the student. The consultation should be limited to the parameters outlined below for the student advocate.
3. Where there is a reasonable possibility that the principal may take disciplinary action against the student for the same conduct which is being investigated by the police and the parent is not available to attend the police interview, the principal should facilitate consultation for the student with another suitable adult person or "student advocate".
4. Consideration should be given to the designation of a suitable volunteer adult person within the school who is acceptable to the student to act as a "student advocate". The student advocate would be available to attend police interviews and provide practical information to the student where a parent is unable to attend. The student advocate should refrain from eliciting any information from the student (because the student advocate might be ultimately required to divulge this information to a court), but should provide the student with some basic information in advance of the interview, including:

- a) that the student has the right to consult with counsel*
- b) that the student does not have to give a statement to the police and, if he/she does, it may be used against the student; and
- c) that the person consulted may be called as witness for or against the young person.

* The legal services society provides the “**Brydges**” line for students wishing to talk to a lawyer. **Brydges** is reached via pager 613-0566 or toll free at 1-888-978-0050.

5. A principal may attend an interview of a victim or witness, although there is no obligation to do so. The primary purpose of attendance would be to provide support to the student, presumably where a parent was unable to attend. In deciding whether to attend, the principal should consider such factors as the age and maturity of the student and the nature of the incident being investigated. A principal should not attend if the student or police want to conduct the interview in private. If the principal attends such an interview and during the interview the police advise that the student is now a suspect, the above noted considerations would apply.

Cross Refs: Board policies 501 503 and 424, Young Offenders Act, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Adopted: November 24, 1998
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