

5.31.3 - Interrogations and Unannounced Visits by Law Enforcement

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INTERROGATIONS AND UNANNOUNCED VISITS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

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To provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors, the Alexander City Board of Education supports the requirement of The Alabama Administrative Code, §290-030-010-.06, to permit law enforcement agencies to make periodic, unannounced visits to any school within the school system. Such visits shall be for the purpose of detecting the presence of illegal drugs or warrants. Such visits shall be unannounced except to the Superintendent and principals of the individual schools that are subject to the visitation. In accordance with The Code of Alabama, §16-1-24.1, the possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or weapons will result in immediate suspension from school and possible criminal charges being brought against the student(s).

Visits and/or Interrogations by Public Officials

When the school principal, designee, or law enforcement agency has evidence or reasonable cause to believe that a crime has been committed on campus such as possession of illegal drugs or weapons--law enforcement officials, to include juvenile authorities--may be allowed or requested to come to the school to investigate the incident. Visits by law officials shall be coordinated through the principal or designee. There shall be no requirement to announce the visit of a law official to anyone except the building principal and Superintendent.

Interrogations

When law enforcement officers make it known that they wish to talk to a student while under supervision of the school, the following procedure will be used:

1. The student will be called to the office of the principal.
2. The principal shall attempt to notify the student's parent or guardian by telephone of the situation.
3. If the principal is able to contact the student's parent or guardian, the parent or guardian, upon consultation with the principal and student, shall determine whether or not the student is to be questioned by the law enforcement officer while under the jurisdiction of the school, and under what circumstances, i.e. in the presence, of the school principal or in the presence of the parent or guardian, etc.
4. If the principal is unable to contact the student's parent or guardian or if the parent or guardian is unable to come to the school within a reasonable amount of time, the principal shall permit the law enforcement official to talk with the student.

Arrest Warrants

In case an arrest warrant is presented by law enforcement officers, the school principal or designee shall make every effort to notify the parent or guardian of the student in question prior to the student's removal from the school premises.

1. **Department of Human Resources Officials**

At the Request of School Officials

The school principal or designee may request personnel from the Department of Human Resources to come to the school to assist in providing related services for students, provided at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The student is an active client with the Department.
2. The student is in the legal custody of the Department.
3. The school principal or designee believes that the Department can provide services that will help the student.
4. There is evidence of child abuse/neglect or suspected child abuse/neglect.

At the Request of Department of Human Resources Officials

When Department of Human Resources officials make it known they wish to talk with a student while under the supervision of the school, the principal or designee shall seek to determine if, 1) the visit relates to child abuse/neglect or 2) the Department has legal custody of the student. If so, the Department of Human Resources Official shall be permitted to talk with the student. If it is determined that the visit does not relate to child abuse/neglect or matters pertaining to rights granted to a custodian, the principal or designee shall advise the Department of Human Resources Official that any talks or questioning should be conducted while the student is at home and not under the supervision of the school.

REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA

16-1-24.1, AAC §290-030-010-.06

HISTORY:

ADOPTED: 2006

REVISED: JULY 13, 2010

FORMERLY: 5.23