

Lakeland Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Interrogations and Searches	Descriptor Code: 6.303	Issued Date: 05/12/14
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 INTERROGATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

2 Students may be questioned by teachers or principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school
3 and/or the enforcement of its rules. Any student answering falsely, or evasively or refusing to answer a question
4 may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

5 If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or breaking school rules, the principal may interrogate the
6 student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

7 INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE (AT ADMINISTRATOR'S REQUEST)

8 If the principal has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the
9 police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The principal or his/her designee shall be
10 present during the interrogation. The use of police women or female staff members is desirable in the
11 interrogation of female students.

12 POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS

13 If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated crimes
14 committed outside of school hours, the police department shall first contact the principal regarding the planned
15 interrogation and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate. The principal shall make reasonable
16 effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The
17 interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the principal or his/her designee
18 shall be present during the interrogation.

19 SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

20 In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the superintendent shall develop procedures regarding
21 the searching of students, lockers, vehicles, and containers which are consistent with state law and regulations.
22 The superintendent shall develop additional procedures to ensure compliance with all of the provisions of the
23 School Security Act of 1981.¹

24

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4201 through 4218

Cross References

- Procedural Due Process 6.302
Child Abuse and Neglect 6.409