

Hancock County Board of Education

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| Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April | Descriptor Term: Interrogations and Searches | Descriptor Code: 6.303 | Issued Date: 08/06/15 |
| | | 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. Questioning must be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which
4 will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering falsely, or evasively or refusing to
5 answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

6 If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the principal may
7 interrogate the student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

8 INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE (AT ADMINISTRATOR'S REQUEST)

9 If the principal has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the
10 police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The principal shall first attempt to notify
11 the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise. However, the interrogation may
12 proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the principal or his/her designee shall be present
13 during the interrogation. The use of police women or female staff members is desirable in the interrogation of
14 female students.

15 POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS

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

22 SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

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

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Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4201 through 4218

Cross References

- Procedural Due Process 6.302
Child Abuse and Neglect 6.409