

Law Enforcement Contact on Campus with Students and Employees

Policy Code

4336/7225

Cherokee County Schools desire to maintain a cooperative relationship with law enforcement officials. Law enforcement can be called to a school at the request of school administration or law enforcement can initiate contact with a school. Contact between the school and law enforcement officers, other than School Resource Officers, shall be made through the office of the superintendent or the superintendent's designee and the office of the law enforcement agency excepting in exigent circumstances. Law enforcement will coordinate with the superintendent what is in the best interest of the student or the employee in conducting this contact.

For routine law enforcement matters, law enforcement officers are encouraged to contact a student or an employee away from the school. For example, drug screening of students who are on probation or parole or the service of subpoenas or the service of civil process should take place away from campus.

If law enforcement officers have a warrant for the arrest of a student or employee, law enforcement must be permitted to make that arrest. Such arrest shall be in a manner the law enforcement officer determines to be the safest for the law enforcement officer and the student or employee. Law enforcement personnel will coordinate the arrest on campus with school administration. Before removing a student from the school, the school administrator will complete the Student Release Form. The law enforcement officer shall sign the student release form. **See Attachment.**

Absent an arrest warrant, a law enforcement officer shall coordinate contact of a student or an employee with the school administrator. The school administrator and the law enforcement officer shall determine the safest manner to remove the student or employee from the classroom. Law enforcement personnel shall be cognizant of the academic day. Consideration in making the contact on campus should be based upon situations where the health, life, or safety of the student or the employee would be at risk if the contact was conducted elsewhere.

If law enforcement and the school administrator determine that a student or an employee is to be interviewed, every attempt will be made to respect the dignity of the person and the decorum of the school. In order that confidentiality can be maintained, any questioning should be conducted in a private room removed from observation by or contact with other student or school personnel.

When law enforcement is making contact with a student, the school administrator shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parents or guardian except in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect involving the parent or caretaker or if the parents are part of the crime. Parents/guardian should be given the opportunity to come to the school. Attendance of the parent/guardian in the law enforcement interview shall be determined at the age of the student. The school administrator or a designee shall be available to assist the student, but should not take part in any law enforcement contact and remain a neutral observer at all times.

Adopted: October 14, 2004

**CHEROKEE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT RELEASE FORM**

The undersigned, a law enforcement official with the:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Hereby acknowledges that it is necessary in the exercise of his/her official duties to remove from the school premises and take into his/her custody the following student:

NAME OF STUDENT

NAME OF SCHOOL

As a representative of the aforesaid law enforcement agency, the undersigned assumes full responsibility for the safety and well being of the student while in his/her custody and agrees that the school and its staff shall be indemnified and held harmless from any liability as a result of the removal of this student from the school premises.

This the _____ day of _____, 20__.

NAME OF OFFICER

TITLE/POSITION

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER