

Students

Police in the Schools

The Ledyard Public Schools system enjoys an excellent working relationship with the Ledyard Police. The presence of the Youth Officer and the School Resource Officer in the schools enhances the educational program and supports a safe environment for students and staff.

The Ledyard Board of Education expects District employees and students to cooperate fully with members of the Ledyard Police while in the performance of their law enforcement duties. However, as the schools are responsible for their enrolled students during regular school hours and while students are participating in school-sponsored events or activities, staff members shall work to ensure, as is practicable, that each student's constitutional rights are upheld in regard to questioning and arrest and that students are protected from any form of illegal coercion.

Questioning Students

When police are investigating possible criminal acts, which occurred, or may have occurred, on school property or while the alleged participants were under the jurisdiction of the District, the police may question students at school when the following procedures are observed:

1. Students will be questioned as confidentially and inconspicuously as possible.
2. Reasonable attempts will be made to notify the student's parents or guardians so that they may be present during the questioning. The building Principal, or his/her designee, shall remain with the student, if the student so desires, until the student's parent or guardian arrives.
3. Prior to questioning, the student and his/her parents/guardians shall be informed, by the police, of the student's right to remain silent or to speak through an attorney and that any statements made by the student may be used in legal proceedings against the student.
4. In situations where the use or abuse of illegal or prohibited substances by the student or students being questioned is suspected, and where there is reason to suspect that the student has recently consumed such a substance, the school nurse or other appropriate medical personnel may be contacted and/or summoned to assure the well-being of the student(s).

When investigating a possible criminal violation that occurred off school grounds and during which the alleged participants were not under the care of the District, police will be encouraged to question students in their homes. However, the police may be permitted to question students in the schools when the procedures outlined above are observed.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall develop regulations, in conjunction with the Ledyard Police, delineating the procedures to be followed for police response to both emergencies and non-emergencies in the schools, the conduct of patrol checks, interviewing students, student arrests, and the sharing of information, as allowed by law.

Related Policies:

1411 – Law Enforcement Agencies

5144 – Student Discipline

5145.12 – Search and Seizure

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

46b-120. Definitions.

46b-137. Admissibility of confession or other statement in juvenile proceedings.

New Jersey v T.L.O., 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1985)

Policy adopted: August 16, 2000

Complete revision: March 1, 2006

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ledyard, Connecticut