

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Policy

POLICY: C46

WARNED: 9/30/20

ADOPTED: _____

EFFECTIVE: _____

**INTERROGATION OR SEARCHES OF
STUDENTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OR OTHER NON-SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines pertaining to interrogation of students on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities. Students may not be interrogated by law enforcement or other non-school government officials unless there is a legal basis to do so, including evidence of abuse or neglect or an imminent health or safety threat.

1. A student in school may not be interrogated by any non-school authority without the knowledge of the school principal or their designee, and knowledge and permission of parent or guardian, unless the interview or interrogation is part of a child abuse or neglect investigation conducted by the department of social and rehabilitation services in accordance with Chapter 49 of Title 33 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.
2. Except as stated in number 1, the district will not make students available to law enforcement for interview, or interrogation, for any legal or any other law enforcement purpose unless written notification has been sent to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian and the parent(s) or legal guardian have provided written permission for law enforcement authorities to interview or interrogate the student. For a student 18 year old or older law enforcement must obtain that student's written permission as well.
3. A student may not be released to the custody of persons other than a parent or legal guardian, unless placed under arrest by legal authority or otherwise taken by legal authority exercised by child protective services.
4. If a student is removed from the school by legal authority, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be notified of this action by school officials as soon as possible.
5. Questioning by non-school personnel of a student may, however, take place without notification of parents if such questioning is required due to an emergency or urgent potential danger to life, or property, as determined by the Principal or principal designee, and reasonable efforts to notify the student's parents are unsuccessful. Under these circumstances a student may only be questioned in the presence of the Principal or principal designee.