

## Community Relations

### Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

The Orange Board of Education recognizes that district-wide cooperation with law enforcement agencies is essential for the protection of staff and students, for maintaining a safe environment in district schools and for safeguarding district property.

Programs and activities designed to enrich district curriculum and to develop and promote good citizenship and a healthy attitude toward law enforcement agencies and officials will be encouraged by the district. Law enforcement participation in such programs and activities is encouraged.

Law enforcement officials may enter school facilities if a crime has been committed on district property or to investigate matters concerning staff and students upon request initiated by either agency officials or by district administrators. Administrators have the responsibility and the authority to determine when the presence and assistance of law enforcement officers is necessary within their respective jurisdictions.

The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations to implement this policy, including procedures for handling investigations, administrator requests for assistance and required referrals to law enforcement agencies. The District administrators shall at all times act in a manner which protects and guarantees the rights of students and parents/guardians and shall cooperate with law enforcement officials as provided in administrative regulations.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

[53a-185](#) Loitering in or about school grounds:

Class C Misdemeanor

54-76j Disposition upon adjudication as youthful offender.

*New Jersey vs. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Policy adopted: March 12, 2007

Policy reviewed:

## Community Relations

### Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies

#### School Police Cooperation

Orange Public Schools officials are committed to cooperation with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe school environment. Police officials, however, have limited authority to interview or search students in schools or at school functions, or to use school facilities in connection with police work.

This regulation is intended to balance the needs of school and police officials. The reduction of ambiguity and confusion in how these officials interact will provide an optimal environment for education while ensuring that the public safety needs of the school and community are adequately met. Police officials may enter school property or a school function to question or to search a student or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have (1) a search or arrest warrant; or (2) probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on school property or at a school function; or (3) been invited by school officials.

Generally, police should be notified immediately of any crime. Police will make every attempt to minimize distractions or disruption of school routines during the performance of their duties. There may be instances where the transgression is so slight that the school administrator can resolve the issue himself/herself. Examples of crimes that fall into this category are theft of pocket change, minor vandalism, or minor physical altercations in which there is no injury or pain inflicted upon either participant.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Suggested Action</b>
<b>Vandalism, Breaking, Entering, etc.</b>	Police should be notified immediately. (cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism)
<b>Alcohol, Drugs, etc.</b>	The suspected drug or alcohol should be secured by the building administrator and given directly to the responding police officer. The police officer will sign a receipt and give it to the building administrator. Prescription drugs out of the container should be seized and the prescription confirmed via the subscribing doctor. If the prescription is not valid the drug should be seized and the police notified. (cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco)

<b>Loitering</b>	As long as the school grounds are posted, "no trespassing," warnings prior to arrest are not required. Notification of police and requests for arrest are within the discretion of the building administrator.
<b>Confrontations</b>	Confrontations where students become involved in loud tumultuous behavior but do not assault another is a violation of the law and police can arrest for this behavior. The decision to call police and request an arrest is within the discretion of the building administrator.
<b>Assaults</b>	Physical altercations in which students are injured or pain has been inflicted upon another should be reported to the police as soon as practicable.
<b>Weapons</b>	Confiscated weapons that are illegal in themselves should be turned over to the police department immediately by the school official who seized same. This category of weapons includes knives with over a four inch blade, dirk knives, switch blade knives, martial arts weapons and guns. Ammunition should also be immediately turned over to the police. Any evidence or information relative to firearms in the school should be immediately relayed to the police. Weapons that are not illegal in themselves but are a violation of school policy. Police notification in these instances are within the discretion of the school administrator. (cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)
<b>Bomb Scare Suspect Devices</b>	Do not handle suspected devices. Notify Superintendent's office and police. Police will notify the Fire Department. A building check will be completed by custodial staff. The building administrator will decide whether or not to evacuate following discussions with the police and fire officials. The administrator

	will notify the Superintendent of his/her decision.
<b>Civil Disobedience</b>	When known about in advance, school and police should plan beforehand. Picketing is legal whereas blocking traffic, etc., is illegal. Police officials may be requested to assist in controlling disturbances at school and if necessary to take students or other persons into custody.
<b>Police Interviews</b>	Generally will not take place on school grounds. However, if the police do indicate that an interview on school grounds is necessary, school authorities shall cooperate.
<b>Police Interviews of Juveniles</b>	When the interview involves a juvenile, the police will usually arrange to have a parent present. The exceptions to this rule are (a) if the student is being interviewed as a victim and/or (b) if there is an overriding immediate public safety concern. If a student under the age of 16 is being interviewed by the police and the parent/guardian cannot be present, the student may at his/her request, have a member of the school staff present. Students who are questioned by police officials on school property or at a school function will be afforded the same rights they have outside the schools. This means they (1) must be informed of their legal rights; (2) may remain silent if they so desire; and (3) may request the presence of an attorney.
<b>Child Abuse</b>	School officials will notify the Department of Children and Families and the police of suspected child abuse cases. If staff members have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused by a school employee, they must report the abuse to the Superintendent who will notify the DCF and police. (cf. 5141.4 - Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect)
<b>Confidential Police Records</b>	Police officials are prohibited by state and federal law from disclosing confidential

	juvenile arrest information or using the police computer network to obtain information relative to registration numbers, home addresses, etc.
<b>Search of Students</b>	School officials may search students, bookbags, lockers, desks, etc., using the established "reasonable suspicion" standard. In cases where a student is suspected of carrying a dangerous weapon and there is a safety issue inherent in the search process itself, the police should conduct the search after the student is secured in an office. (cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

### **Notification of a Student's Arrest**

Pursuant to the requirements of C.G.S. [10-233h](#), as amended by Public Act 94-221, Public Act [95-304](#) and Public Act 97-149, whenever the Superintendent receives oral, followed by written notification from the local police department or state police that a student was arrested for a Class A misdemeanor, a felony, or for selling, carrying, or brandishing a facsimile firearm, he/she shall maintain the written report in a secure location and the information in the report shall be maintained as confidential in accordance with Section [46b-124](#). The Superintendent may disclose such information, when reported during the school year, only to the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled or the supervisory agent of any other school in which the student is enrolled.

The Principal or supervisory agent may disclose such information only to special service staff or a consultant, such as a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker, for the purposes of assessing the risk of danger posed by the person to other students, school employees or property and effectuating an appropriate modification of such person's educational plan or placement for disciplinary purposes. Such information with respect to a child under sixteen years of age shall be confidential in accordance with [46b-124](#) and shall only be disclosed as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

[10-233a](#) through [10-233s](#) re student suspension, expulsion.

[10-233g\(b\)](#) Boards to report school violence.

[10-233h](#) Arrested students. Reports by police to the superintendent, disclosure, confidentiality.

[17a](#)-101 Protection of children from abuse.

[17a](#)-102 Report of danger of abuse.

[46b](#)-124 Confidentiality of records of juvenile matters. Exception

[53](#)-206c Sale, carrying and brandishing of facsimile firearms prohibited. Class B misdemeanor.

[53a](#)-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C Misdemeanor.

Reports of principals to police authority.

*New Jersey v T.L.O.*, 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1988), 469 U.S. 325; 105 S.Ct 733.

54-76j Disposition upon adjudication as youthful offender.

Regulation approved: 3/12/07

Regulation reviewed: April 15, 2013