

*MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATES AS MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION,
AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE REFERRED TO AS "MHPSD" AND/OR "DIVISION"*

SECTION 600 – Students

POLICY 636: STUDENT INTERVIEWS BY POLICE AND CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

BACKGROUND

In providing services to students and the school community it sometimes becomes necessary for Police or Child Protection Services to interview students during school hours and on school premises.

POLICY

It is desirable that Police and Child Protection Services work cooperatively together in circumstances where access to, and interviews with, students must take place within the school setting. It is also important that Board employees act consistently with common understandings and protocols that have been developed between educational, law enforcement and family services authorities within the Province of Alberta ("Joint Protocols").

The purpose of this Policy and the Administrative Procedures is to explain the procedures that arise from the Joint Protocols and to set out and clarify the expectations of Board staff in the event that Police or Child Protection Services attend at schools for the purposes of interviewing students.

The Board expects staff to co-operate with the Police and Child Protection Services in accordance with the Joint Protocols by permitting interviews of students on school premises where necessary or required. However, staff also owe duties to students and should take appropriate steps to address their needs or interests in accordance with the provisions of this Policy and the Administrative Procedures.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board expects that interviews by external agencies will be conducted in a manner that respects the student's rights and dignity.
2. When an interview is being conducted on school property, the interview should be conducted in a confidential and private manner, and should be in the presence of a parent/guardian and/or an adult who accompanies the student.
3. When the interview involves the investigation of a crime, the parents/guardians shall be immediately advised of their child's involvement with the Police or Child Protection Services, except in situations of suspected parental child abuse or neglect.

4. The procedures set out in this policy are based on the Joint Protocols, which are collaborative principles developed between Alberta Education and provincial police and child protection agencies. The school principal should report to, or seek direction from, a Central Office designate if they are not being followed by any party.
5. If there are serious concerns about how an interaction between a student and police and/or child protection services representatives is being carried out, school administrators should express verbally any concerns or disapproval and immediately seek advice from the School Division. School administrators should not interfere with a criminal investigation by police or with the execution of a court order or apprehension order by Child Protective Services.
6. The school principal should inquire of the police officer or caseworker as to what processes they intend to follow in notifying parents/guardians about the interview. If there is any doubt or concern about responsibility for notifying parents, the school principal or designate should contact a Central Office delegate for direction.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

[636 P 001 – Student Interviews by Police and Child Protection Services](#)

REFERENCES

Child Protective Services

Approved: September 7, 2004

Revised: December 15, 2015

