

Revised: 6/30/18 (renumbered only)

**527 POLICE OFFICERS ON SCHOOL PREMISES****I. PURPOSE**

Southside Family Charter School understands the importance of cooperating with police officers in the interest of law enforcement and crime prevention. The school must also protect its students' rights to safety and to an education. Good relations between the schools and the various law enforcement agencies are fostered by understanding the respective roles and responsibilities of the different entities when they interact. The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedures for access to students by police officers during the school day, and to clarify the responsibilities of school staff in responses to requests from law enforcement officers to question students or to release students to them.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Generally, students may not be released to law enforcement officers during the school day, except as otherwise provided by law or this policy.
- B. Law enforcement officers may be called to the school if the School Leader or their designee has reason to believe that a crime has been committed on school grounds or there is a significant safety concern. Law enforcement officers shall determine whether or not a crime has been committed.
- C. Law enforcement officers who seek entry into a school for official business must first contact the School Leader for permission to enter the school unless exigent circumstances exist.
- D. When a request is made by law enforcement officers to make contact with a student on school grounds, the School Leader shall make reasonable attempts to contact the student's parent or guardian to obtain permission and/or give parents an opportunity to be present. If the parent consents to the interview but cannot be present, the School Leader and/or Student Advocate may take their place. In any circumstance, a school staff member shall be present during any interaction between students and police officers.
- E. If the student's parent or guardian cannot be reached for permission, or if permission is denied, the School Leader shall deny the officers contact with the student and request that the law enforcement officer attempt an interview of the student at a different time and/or place, unless such permission or notice of the request for contact is specifically prohibited by law. The school shall make further

attempts to reach the student's parent or guardian to inform them of the attempted interview.

- F. Custodial arrests made at school shall be made at the discretion of the law enforcement officer, guided by whether the student is a danger or threat to themselves or others, is likely to flee or to engage in further criminal conduct.
- G. Law enforcement officers may not remove a student from the school premises without signing a school provided release form accepting responsibility for the student.
- H. No student shall be surrendered to a private organization, or to a private investigator or detective, or representative of any attorney.
- I. Law enforcement officers other than Minneapolis Police Department officers must coordinate attempts to arrest students at school with the Minneapolis Police Department and the School Leader. The school may require the presence of a Minneapolis Police Department officer in order to grant entry to other agency's officers.
- J. In any contact between a law enforcement officer and a student, officers and school staff shall endeavor to avoid any undue embarrassment of the student before students or staff. Interviews should take place behind closed doors, in a room away from the regular flow of students.
- K. In any contact between a law enforcement officer and a student, officers and staff shall endeavor to avoid disrupting the educational program of the student or the school.

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.556 (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)

***Cross References:***

Southside Family Charter School Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)  
Southside Family Charter School Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)