RELATIONS WITH POLICE AUTHORITIES

It is the policy of the schools to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in the interest of the larger welfare of all citizens. At the same time, schools have the responsibility to parents for the welfare of the students while they are in the care of the school. To carry out this responsibility, school officials should observe the following:

I. CUSTODY

A duly authorized police officer may require that a pupil be released to his custody providing a written request from the local police department is presented to the school official in charge. The request for custody should be made only when one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. There are clear indications that the youth to be questioned is directly involved in a violation of a local ordinance, state or federal statute.
2. The individual involved is a known fugitive from either his parents or justice.
3. It appears in the best interest of the student that he or she be taken into protective custody.

The request must be signed by the local police chief or his official representative. Both the police and school officials have a responsibility for notifying the parent or guardian of the action taken.

NOTE: When circumstances dictate the immediate questioning of a pupil, a police officer will take the pupil into custody in accordance with the provisions of this statement. It is clear that a police officer has the right to take a child into custody. However, it is important for law enforcement agencies and school authorities to recognize the parent-pupil-school relationship.

II. QUESTIONING

If the police department needs to question a pupil, the most desirable practice would include the notification of the parent or guardian and further the presence of the parent or guardian at the time of the questioning. This would tend to safeguard the self-incrimination rights of the pupil. Also, the questioning should be conducted away from the school to avoid any unnecessary display of law enforcement activities which can lead to unfortunate misunderstandings on the part of other students and members of the faculty.

It is recognized that the above conditions may not be easily arranged in every instance and it is expected that in such instances the police department will call the school and request a message be passed on to a student, which message would instruct the pupil to present himself at the police station or some other agreeable location preferably after the close of classes. Both agencies are expected to make every reasonable effort to contact the parent or guardian and apprise him/her of the situation.

III. EMERGENCIES

Any violation of ordinances and laws on the school grounds dictates administrator-teacher involvement which may include the questioning and custody of a pupil by law enforcement authorities.