
Purpose

This policy recognizes that Bemidji Police Officers will become involved with ISD #31 facilities, staff and students for the purposes of presentations, providing community service or conducting public relations missions and during investigations.

Policy

It is the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to engage positively with ISD #31 to build strong relationships and provide a safe environment for students and staff.

Scope

This policy represents a cooperative effort between the Bemidji Police Department, the Bemidji School Principals and the Bemidji School District #31 Central Administration.

Procedure

- A. Bemidji Police Officers are encouraged to visit local elementary schools for presentations, reading or lunch with the children in an effort to establish positive relationships.
- B. Officers participating in such activities will not routinely become involved in other police enforcement activities, except in emergency situations.
- C. In situations where enforcement action must be immediately taken on ISD #31 property, the officer should notify that schools principle as soon as practicable.
- D. Bemidji School District policy states that a parent or guardian shall be contacted prior to routine contact by police. When appropriate, parents or guardians may be asked to be present during any questioning, or, may give verbal consent for an officer to speak with the student.
 - a. In cases where a parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the school principal will make a decision about proceeding without parental consent/contact, and shall consider the severity and urgency of the situation.
- E. During instances where a student is out of control or a danger to self or other, the officer will utilize de-escalation and/or the least amount of force necessary to control the student while ensuring everyone's safety.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

- A. REVISION DATE(S):