

## DETROIT TODAY

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DETROIT

Boy, 14, now charged in school rape case

A 14-year-old boy, released by police two weeks ago during an investigation of a reported rape at Hutchins Middle School, was arrested Monday as a codefendant. Three other teens have been charged.

The boy, whose name is being withheld because of his age, faces arraignment today on two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is asking juvenile court to treat the boy as an adult at sentencing.

A 13-year-old girl, also designated for adult treatment, faces a preliminary examination Wednesday, though officials said it likely will be postponed so it can be consolidated with hearings for the other defendants.

**Audi Dawson** and Dominique Brown, both 15, are scheduled for a preliminary examination Monday in Detroit's 36th District Court.

**Dawson** is charged with raping a 12-year-old seventh-grade student at the school while Brown and the other two teens held her.

According to police reports filed in court, the 14-year-old boy helped lure the girl from her Spanish class on the third floor to a vacant area of the fourth floor, where she was assaulted.

The boy also held the girl's side as she was being raped, then let go, saying, "I don't want to have nothing to do with this," according to police.

**Dawson** made no statement to police, but Brown denied the charge, saying the incident was consensual sex. Both entered not-guilty pleas at their arraignment.

Last week, the 12-year-old's parents sued the Detroit Public Schools, alleging that Hutchins administrators failed to properly deal with Brown who, the parents said, had harassed their daughter for weeks.

By Jack Kresnak

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