

SEARCHES OF STUDENTS

A search of a student's personal property or clothing should only be undertaken when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is concealing an object(s) or substance(s) in violation of school rules or which may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of all students enrolled.

Because state and federal law and school policy prohibit certain articles and substances from being carried by students on school grounds, all personal property of students including but not limited to duffle bags, backpacks, book bags, and purses shall be subject to inspection at the discretion of the principal. When the principal has reason to believe that one or more students are carrying contraband, those students shall be asked to allow a search of their possessions. They may also be asked to empty their pockets. Such searches should be conducted in private by a school employee of the same sex as the student with a school employee present as a witness and only with the permission of the principal. Strip searches shall not be conducted.

In the event a police officer or other law enforcement officer is to conduct a search of a student's locker, person, or possessions, a search warrant is necessary.

The School Board President and parent/guardian should be notified whenever a search has been conducted.

Cross Reference: Policy FHCF Alcohol and Other Drug Use/Abuse

Legal Reference: U.S. Constitution Amendment I
Doe v. Renfrow, 475 F. Supp. 1012 (N.D. Ind. 1979)
Doe v. Renfrow, 631 F.2nd 91 (7th Cir. 1980)
M.M. v. Anker, 607 F.2d 488 (2d Cir. 1979)
Picha v. Wielgos, 410 F. Supp. 1214 (N.D. Ill. 1976)
Jones v. Latexo ISD, 499 F. Supp. 223 (E.D. Tex. 1980)
Cormier v. Hardin-Jefferson ISD, Comm. Of Ed. Dec. (1981)

POLICY ADOPTED: 05 Sep 02
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