## PROPOSED REVISION



**3231** Page 1 of 2

## **STUDENTS**

## **Searches of Students and Their Property**

All students shall be free from unreasonable searches of their persons, clothing, and other personal property. However, a student and a student's possessions are subject to search by the principal, assistant principal, or principal's designee if **there is** reasonable **grounds suspicion exist to suspect** that the search will yield evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules **governing student conduct**. A search is mandatory if there **are is** reasonable **grounds suspicion that to suspect** a student possesses a firearm.

The principal, assistant principal, or principal's designee shall begin by asking that the student consent to the search. A student or his/her parents/guardians on the student's behalf may consent to a search at school. If the student refuses to consent to the search, school officials may proceed to search the student and the student's personal belongings as follows:

- A. Any search of a student and the student's possessions conducted by the principal, assistant principal, or principal's designee must be reasonably related to the discovery of contraband or other evidence of a student's violation of the law or school rules. For the purpose of this policy, "contraband" means items, materials, or substances the possession of which is prohibited by law or district policy, including but not limited to, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or any object that can reasonably be considered a firearm or a dangerous weapon.
- B. The principal, assistant principal, or principal's designee shall conduct searches in a manner which is not excessively intrusive in light of age and sex of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction. No student shall be subject to a strip search or body cavity search by school officials.
- C. The principal, assistant principal, or principal's designee shall determine in his/her discretion if a student's parent/guardian should be contacted prior to conducting a search. If not previously notified, a student's parent/guardian shall be contacted following a search. Advance notification of the student's parent/guardian is not required, however, and is at the discretion of the principal, assistant principal or principal's designee.

School officials may consult with local law enforcement officials regarding the advisability of a search on school premises by a law enforcement officer if evidence of criminal activity is likely to be seized.

The superintendent shall develop procedures regulating searches of students and their personal property.

## PROPOSED REVISION

**3231** Page 2 of 2

Cross references:	Board Policy 3230	Student Privacy

Procedure 3231P Searches of Students and Their

Property

Board Policy 3232 Searches of Lockers, Desks, and

Storage Areas

Board Policy 3246 Personal Electronic Devices

Legal references: RCW 10.79.070 Strip, body cavity searches—Definitions

RCW 28A.600.210 School locker searches—Findings

RCW 28A.600.220 School locker searches—No expectation

of privacy

RCW 28A.600.230 School locker searches—

Authorization—Limitations

RCW 28A.600.240 School locker searches—Notice and

reasonable suspicion requirements

<u>Chapter 392-400 WAC</u> Student Discipline

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