

STUDENT PRIVACY AND SEARCHES

At certain ages, students attain the right to decide for themselves what records will remain confidential, even from their parents, and what activities the student will participate in. At age eighteen students become legal adults and must approve any disclosure of information about themselves from school records, except directory information if a request for confidentiality has not been filed. Students at age eighteen may also sign releases, authorizations or permission slips to participate in school activities, and may sign themselves out of school and authorize their own absences. Students between sixteen and eighteen who have been granted legal emancipation from their parents or guardians have the same rights as eighteen year old students. Students over fourteen years of age have the right to keep private from everyone any district records indicating that they have been tested or treated for a sexually transmitted disease. Students thirteen years and older have confidentiality rights in records regarding drug, alcohol or mental health treatment. All students have confidentiality rights in family planning or abortion records.

A. Searches of Students and Personal Property

Personal privacy is a fundamental aspect of individual liberty. All students possess the constitutional right to be secure in their persons, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

School officials are required to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect students from exposure to illegal drugs, weapons, and contraband. The superintendent, the principal, and other staff designated by the superintendent shall have the authority to conduct reasonable searches on school property as provided by district policy.

A search is required when there are reasonable grounds to suspect a student has a firearm on school grounds, transportation or at school events.

No student shall be subject to a strip search or body cavity search by school staff.

B. Locker Searches

Students may be assigned lockers for storing and securing their books, school supplies, and personal effects. Lockers, desks, and storage areas are the property of the school district. No right nor expectation of privacy exists for any student as to the use of any space issued or assigned to a student by the school and such lockers and other spaces are subject to search in accordance with district policy.

No student may use a locker, desk, or storage area as a depository for any substance or object which is prohibited by law or school rules or which poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.

Any student's locker, desk, or other storage area shall be subject to search if reasonable grounds exist to suspect that the search will yield evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules. Any search of an individual student's locker shall be conducted according to district policy governing personal searches.

Cross References:	District Policy 3414 District Policy 3231	Infectious Diseases Student Records
Legal References:	RCW 13.64.060 28A.320.040 28A.600.020 28A.600.210-240 WAC 392-400-215	Power and Capacity of emancipated minor Bylaws for board and school government Government of schools, pupils, employees, rules and Optimum learning atmosphere School official searches of student lockers Student rights

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