

STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHES AND ARRESTS

SEARCHES

The School Committee recognizes the right of students to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Nevertheless, it is the duty of the School Committee and school officials to maintain order and discipline in the schools, thereby ensuring a positive educational environment. In furtherance of these duties, inspections and searches for prohibited and/or illegal substances or items may be conducted. This Policy is intended to reconcile the difficulties which may arise between the school officials and pupils in the mutual preservation of their rights and responsibilities.

School Property

Lockers, desks, computers, books and other items issued to students by the District for their temporary use remain the property of the school. As such, students should have no expectation of privacy as it relates to their use. Trained dogs may be used at any in conducting periodic sweeps of the campus including but not limited to parking areas and lockers.

Person/Personal Possessions

When an Administrator or designee has reason to believe that contraband as described above is being stored on one's person or in one's possessions, he/she may conduct a personal search appropriate to the nature of the potential violation.

INTERROGATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS

It is the policy of the Westfield Public Schools to cooperate with law enforcement and social service agencies in the interest of the larger welfare of all citizens. At the same time, Westfield Public Schools have a responsibility to parents/guardians for the welfare of the students while they are in the care of the school. To carry out this responsibility school officials shall observe the following:

1. An effort will be made to contact the student's parent or guardian so that the responsible individual may be notified of the situation.
2. If custody and/or arrest are involved, the Principal will request that all procedural safeguards, as prescribed by law, be observed by the law enforcement officials.

Adopted: June 3, 1996

OTHER REFS: Student Handbooks

First Reading: waived

Second Reading: May 19, 2008

Revised & Adopted: May 19, 2008

First reading waived

2nd/final reading: May 16, 2016