

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i> <b>SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS</b>	<i>Code</i> <b>JIH</b>
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***HOLLISTON***

Searches by school officials of students and their possessions will be conducted in such a way as to protect each student's rights to personal privacy consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

Students and their personal belongings, including purses, backpacks, clothing, and student vehicles, on school property or at school events, are subject to search by school personnel to the extent that school personnel have a reasonable basis for suspecting that the search would reveal evidence that the student has violated the law or school rules. In the event of search of a student or the student's belongings, parents will be notified as soon as practical following the search.

Except as otherwise necessary due to exigent circumstances, searches of students and their personal belongings will be conducted by a school administrative staff member in the presence of another adult in a private location. In all cases the nature of the search must be reasonably related to the object sought and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and gender of the student.

In the event a student is found to be in possession of an object or substance which may give rise to a crime, such object or substance will be given to the police. Other objects or substances which are prohibited by school rules or which are otherwise disruptive to the school environment may be held by school officials for later return to the student's parent or guardian.

When school officials refer a student to the police, the student's parent or guardian will be notified as soon as practical.

School lockers and desks that are assigned to students for their use remain the property of the school department and students should, therefore, have no expectation of privacy in these areas. Students and parents should be aware that these areas are subject to random searches by school personnel at any time. These searches will not result in parental notification unless contraband or other objects or substances that are prohibited by school rules are found.

School premises, including but not limited to lockers, desks, and parking lots, are also subject to canine searches and to random searches by school personnel at any time.

School officials will permit police to interrogate a student at school only after attempting to notify the student's parent or guardian, except in emergency circumstances or when related to the arrest of a student.

First Reading:	February 15, 2001
Second Reading:	March 3, 2001
Third Reading:	May 3, 2001; October 18, 2001
Policy Adopted:	October 18, 2001
Policy Amended:	
Legal References:	
Policy Cross Reference:	
Procedure Reference:	