

# Interrogations and Searches

## Policy Information

### Series J - Students

#### Interrogations and Searches

Policy # JIH

**FILE: JIH**

## INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

### Searches by Staff

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted to School committees and Administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property.

Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student, will be conducted in a way that protects the student's rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

### Interrogations by Police

The schools have legal custody of students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities. It is the responsibility of the school administration to make an effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogations by law enforcement officials. Therefore:

1. When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or his/her designee will be present. When possible, a staff person of the same gender shall be present. Every effort will be made to contact the student's parent or guardian before the student is questioned so that the responsible individuals may be notified of the situation.
2. If custody and/or arrest is involved, the principal will request that all procedural safeguards, as prescribed by law, be observed by the law enforcement officials.
3. All incidents or interrogations by the police will be reported to the parents in a timely manner.