

Recommended

**WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Directors' Policy

POLICY:	<u>C21</u>
WARNED:	<u>5.29.20</u>
ADOPTED:	<u>6.17.20</u>
EFFECTIVE:	<u>6.18.20</u>

**SEARCH & SEIZURE OF
STUDENTS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Policy

In order to provide a safe and orderly school environment, Washington Central Unified Union School District retains the right to examine all its property and to carry out searches or to seize property of students while on school property or at school related events under the guidelines provided in this policy.

I. SCOPE AND GENERAL POLICIES

- A. This policy applies to searches of students' persons, possessions, and vehicles by school administration or teachers.
- B. Searches may be conducted only upon reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that a student has violated a school rule or policy, or has violated the law, including possession of contraband. Searches will be conducted within the law, will meet the requirements of the state and federal constitutions, and in the least invasive manner possible.
- C. Desks, lockers, textbooks, technological devices and other materials or supplies loaned by the school to students remain the property of the school, and may be opened by school employees for cleaning, maintenance, and emergencies. Pursuant to the policy outlined in section I, subsection B, they may also be searched.
- D. If there is a clear and imminent danger to the health and safety of school individuals, or clear and imminent risk of danger to school property (such as a bomb scare), general searches of school property may be allowed under closely supervised conditions that respect individual rights.

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy:

"Contraband" means weapons, drugs and other illegal substances, or other objects which are evidence of a violation of state or federal law or school policy.

"School property search" means the search of desks, lockers, textbooks and other materials or supplies loaned by the school to a student.

"Possessions search" means a search of the student's pockets, bags, purses and other movable possessions performed by requiring a student to empty those items.

"Vehicle search" means a search of a student's vehicle.

"Person search" means a search of a student's person and may require the student to loosen or remove outer layers of clothing. A student's primary layer of clothing shall not be removed as part of any search district personnel conduct.

"Student" means a student of Washington Central Unified Union School District schools or of another elementary or secondary school who is participating in Washington Central Unified Union School District activities, or is otherwise on school property.

III. PUBLICATION

The student handbook shall describe student search and seizure procedures, and in particular shall describe the ability of the school to open desks, lockers, textbooks and other materials or supplies loaned by the school to students for routine cleaning and maintenance and in emergencies.