

STUDENTS

Student Privacy

The right to privacy is a fundamental tenet of human liberty. District staff shall take particular care to respect students' privacy. At the same time they must protect the health and safety of all students and promote the effective operation of the schools. Therefore, only school principals or such other personnel designated by the superintendent shall have the authority to conduct student searches.

A student shall be free from searches of his/her clothing and other personal property unless there is reasonable cause to believe that something is concealed that may be of immediate danger to the student or to other students. School officials shall first request the student to remove all items from pockets or other personal effects. (If the student refuses and there is no immediate danger, the school officials shall refrain from a search until the parents, or, in the case of possible criminal activity, the police are available.)

Student storage areas remain the property of the district, and school officials retain the authority to inspect storage areas. However, school authorities shall inspect student storage areas in the absence of students only when:

1. It occurs as part of a general inspection of all storage areas for the purpose of returning school property such as library books. (In such cases the personal belongings of students within storage areas shall not be searched.)
2. School authorities have reasonable cause to believe that conditions or circumstances exist which threaten the health or safety of those in the school.

When school authorities have reasonable cause to believe that items which violate school rules or the law are concealed in a school storage area, they shall inspect the storage area.

Legal Reference:	RCW 28A.600.010 28A.320.040 ESSHB 1793, Ch. 271, L89	Government of Schools, Pupils, Employees--Rules Bylaws for Board and School Government Locker Searches Authorized
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Adopted: September 8, 1993