

Descriptor Term: INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Descriptor Code: JCAB

Rescinds: JCAB

Board Approved: 12/7/92

Previously Approved: 4/4/88

Searches

Students in the Gulfport School District have the right to privacy and security against arbitrary invasion of their personal property by school officials. However, the Board of Trustees must maintain an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of its educational goals, including a limited right to search students' personal belongings when reasonable cause is present and when it is in the interest of the overall welfare of other students or is necessary to preserve the good order and discipline of the school.

Lockers will be opened or other searches conducted by not less than two adults one of whom must be a member of the professional staff.

Interrogations

School administrators and teachers have the right to interrogate students regarding their conduct and/or the conduct of others. In regard to students' alleged actions, except where the alleged action would constitute a criminal offense, the right against self-incrimination does not exist. Failure to tell the truth during a legitimate interrogation by school officials will constitute serious infraction of school rules which may result in disciplinary action against the student.

CROSS REF.: LDAJA - Interrogations and Investigations by Police

LEGAL REF.: In re Gault, 87 S. Ct. 1428 (1967); Tinker v. Des Moines, 393 U. S. 503 (1969); Terry v. Ohio, 392 U. S. 1 (1968)