

University Schools			
Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Interrogations and Searches	Descriptor Code: 6.303	Issued Date: June 2025
		Rescinds: 439	Issued:

This policy is to ensure that schools protect student rights and cooperate with authorities and school personnel in interrogations and searches. This policy applies to interrogations and searches of all students. Staff will follow district and University training as it relates to student searches of personal items and containers, including backpacks, book bags, purses, carried clothing, lunch boxes/sacks, etc. University Schools will use metal detectors and wands for these types of searches or the manual method of searches as deemed appropriate by the school director and/or University Police Services.

SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the Chief Policy & Compliance Officer shall develop procedures regarding the searching of students, lockers, vehicles, and containers which are consistent with state law. The Chief Policy & Compliance Officer of Schools shall develop additional procedures to ensure compliance with all of the provisions of the School Security Act of 1981.

- When individual circumstances in a school dictate it, a director may order that vehicles parked on school property by students or visitors, containers, packages, lockers or other enclosures used for storage by students or visitors, and other areas accessible to students or visitors be searched in the Director's presence or in the presence of other members of the Director's staff.
- Individual circumstances requiring a search may include incidents on school property, including school buses, involving, but not limited to, the use of dangerous weapons, drugs or drug paraphernalia by students, which are known to the Director or other staff members, information received from law enforcement, juvenile or other authorities indicating a pattern of drug dealing or drug use by students of that school, any assault or attempted assault on school property with dangerous weapons, or any other actions or incidents known by the director which give rise to reasonable suspicion that dangerous weapons, drugs or drug paraphernalia are held on school property by one (1) or more students.
- A notice shall be posted in the school that lockers and other storage areas, containers, and packages brought into the school by students or visitors are subject to search for drugs, drug paraphernalia, dangerous weapons or any property which is not properly in the possession of the student.

- A notice shall be posted where it is visible from the school parking lot that vehicles parked on school property by students or visitors are subject to search for drugs, drug paraphernalia or dangerous weapons.
- A student may be subject to physical search because of the results of a locker search, or because of information received from a teacher, staff member, student or other person if such action is reasonable to the Director.
- All of the following standards of reasonableness shall be met prior to conducting a physical search on a student:
 - A particular student has violated school policy;
 - The search will yield evidence of the violation of school policy or will lead to disclosure of a dangerous weapon, drug paraphernalia or drug;
 - The search is in pursuit of legitimate interests of the school in maintaining order, discipline, safety, supervision and education of students;
 - The search is not conducted for the sole purpose of discovering evidence to be used in a criminal prosecution; and
 - The search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student, as well as the nature of the infraction alleged to have been committed.

INTERROGATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students may be questioned by teachers or directors about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning shall be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering falsely or evasively or refusing to answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the director may interrogate the student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE AT DIRECTOR'S REQUEST

If the director has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The director shall first attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise. However, the interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the director/designee shall be present during the interrogation.¹

POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS

If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated crimes committed outside of school hours, the police department should first contact the director regarding the planned interrogation and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate. The director shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the director/designee shall be present during the interrogation.