

**STUDENT SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS**

The principal, or other members of the administrative or teaching staff designated in writing by the principal, may search the person of a student during a school activity if the principal has reasonable suspicion for a search of that student. “Reasonable Suspicion” is defined to mean that the person conducting the search has information to reasonably believe that the search will produce a substance or an object that violates a school rule or a law. Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to:

- (1) searches of the pockets of the student;
- (2) any object in the possession of the student such as a purse or briefcase;  
and/or
- (3) a "pat down" of the exterior of the students' clothing.

Searches of the person of a student shall be conducted in a private room by a person of the same sex as the student being searched. At least one, but not more than three additional persons of the same sex as the student being searched, shall witness but not participate in the search. At the request of the student to be searched, an additional person of the same sex as the student designated by the student, and then reasonable available on school premises, shall witness the search. The parent or guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.

The privilege of bringing a student-operated motor vehicle onto school premises is conditioned on consent by the student driver, the owner of the motor vehicle and the parent or guardian of the student to allow search of that motor vehicle when there is reasonable suspicion for a search of that motor vehicle. Refusal by a student, parent or guardian, or the motor vehicle owner to provide or allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of a request to search the motor vehicle, shall be cause for termination without further hearing of the privilege of bringing a motor vehicle onto school premises.

School bus drivers in situations that involve an immediate threat of harm or danger to the persons on the bus, may stop the bus in a safe manner and location to do a search of the student who is the source of the threat of harm or danger and the student’s personal belongings. The standard of reasonable suspicion applies to the school bus drivers in the above-described searches. Standard policy of notification of the Transportation office and/or the office of Student Services shall apply to this situation. *Added: The transportation office/student services office may authorize that the search be conducted or instruct the driver to wait until an administrator or law enforcement arrives at the scene.*

School personnel may question a student concerning an alleged act on or off of school premises that would affect the operation of the school or impact the safety, order or discipline of the school or of a school sponsored event.

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

File:   **JFG**  

Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section which is evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook may be:

- (1) seized and admitted as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding if it is tagged for identification at the time it is seized and kept in a secure place by the principal or the principal's designee until it is presented at the hearing;
- (2) returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized;
- (3) destroyed if it has no significant value; or
- (4) turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person may be seized and:

- (1) returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized;
- (2) destroyed; or
- (3) turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

The principal or his designee, Superintendent or his designee, may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to:

- (1) search any area of the school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on school premises;
- (2) identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section; or
- (3) provide and handle a trained canine to detect the presence of marijuana and other controlled substances in student lockers and motor vehicles located on school premises.

Adoption Date: December 8, 1976; Revised: September 24, 1980; April 28, 1986,  
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