

POLICY

10000-53

STUDENTS – SEARCHES AND QUESTIONING OF STUDENTS

Adoption Date: October 9, 2018

Revised:

Legal Ref: I.C. 20-33-8-32

Cross Ref:

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) recognizes the obligation to balance the privacy rights of students with the responsibility to provide a safe learning environment.

Searches pursuant to this policy shall be permitted in situations including on school grounds, immediately before, during or immediately after school hours, off school grounds at a school activity or function, and travelling to and from school or a school activity, function or event.

Prior to a search of a student's person and/or personal items in the student's immediate possession, consent of the student shall be sought by an administrator. If the student does not consent, such a search shall be permitted based only upon the administrator's individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will produce evidence of a violation of a law, school rule, or a condition that endangers the safety or health of the student or others.

Permission for a student to bring a vehicle on school property shall be conditioned upon consent of the search of the vehicle and all containers inside the vehicle by a school administrator with reasonable suspicion.

The Board authorizes the use of specially-trained dogs to detect the presence of drugs, weapons, or devices such as bombs on school property.

The Board authorizes the use of metal detector wands to detect firearms, knives, and other weapons. Metal detector screenings of students and their possessions shall be conducted in an orderly and safe manner, consistent with industry standards for use of the detectors, and consistent with minimizing intrusion into students' privacy rights. Students and their personal possessions shall be screened by WWS employees using a hand-held metal detector wand owned by the WWS.

Students shall not have an expectation of privacy in any facility provided by the school and shall not be permitted to deny entry to a WWS administrator by the use of a lock or other device. The Board's rules governing search of student's lockers are set out fully in the Student Handbook.

WWS will cooperate with law enforcement officers and Child Protective Service ("CPS") workers acting within the scope of their employment when they propose to question or search a student at school in a manner that is consistent with the rights of the student and the student's parent/guardian.

The Superintendent or his or her designee may request the assistance of a law enforcement agency in implementing any aspect of this policy. The Superintendent, or his or her designee, may develop guidelines to implement this policy.