



## **POLICY: STUDENT PRIVACY AND SEARCHES**

All students possess the right to be secure in their persons, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

The Board seeks to provide a climate in the schools which assures the safety and welfare of personnel and students. To assist in achieving and maintaining this goal, school officials may conduct searches of students, their papers and effects in accordance with the following provisions:

1. The school official has reasonable grounds to believe that the search is necessary to maintain school discipline or order;
2. Illegal or unlawful items, including, but not limited to firearms, weapons, narcotics or illegal drugs, may be seized at any time by school officials;
3. Items reasonably determined to constitute a threat to the safety or security of the possessor or others may be seized by school officials; and
4. Items which disrupt or interfere with the educational process, but do not constitute a threat to the safety of the possessor or others, may be temporarily removed from the student's person by a school official.

Searches of Lockers and Desks: Lockers and desks are the property of the school district. When assigned a locker and/or desk, a student shall be responsible for its proper care. A student may be subject to restitution, fine or discipline for any willful damage to school property, including lockers and desks. Student use of a desk and/or locker may be revoked at anytime without cause. Student use of a desk and/or locker will coexist with the West Valley School District's right to use them. The building principal/designee may, without notice to a student and without cause, search and inspect any desks and/or locker at any time and seize any contraband or other item found to be detrimental to the welfare of the appropriate conduct expected of any student.

Searches of Students: Strip body searches shall not be conducted by district employees.

Reasonable Grounds Determination: In determining whether reasonable grounds exist for the search of a student's person, papers or effects, the school official making the determination shall consider:

- A. The student's age, history and school record,

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- B. The prevalence and seriousness of the problem in the school to which the search was directed,
- C. The existence of conditions requiring that the search be made without delay, and
- D. The probative value and the reliability of the information affording the basis of the search.

**LEGAL REFERENCES:** WAC 180-40-215(3) Student Rights  
U.S. Supreme Court, New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985)  
Wash. Supreme Court, State v. McKinnon (1977)  
Wash. Supreme Court, Kuehn v. Renton School District (1985)  
U.S. Constitution, Fourth Amendment