

## INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

### Searches By Staff

The rights of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted school boards and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding students, their property and school property.

Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion (force; compel), and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

In the event that search is determined to be necessary, two staff members will be present and, unless there are justifiable reasons for exclusion, the person whose property is being searched shall also be present during the search.

Searches by school officials of students' lockers or of the person of the student shall be conducted so as to protect the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school district to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

### Interrogations By Police

The school district has legal custody of students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities. It is the responsibility of the school administration to make an effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogations by law enforcement officials. Therefore:

1. When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or his designee shall be present. An effort shall be made to contact the parent or other adult having custody of the child so that the responsible individuals may be notified of the situation.
2. When the questioning of a child is connected with suspected child abuse, the principal may forego the attempt to notify parents of the questioning.
3. If custody or arrest is involved, the principal shall request that all procedural safeguards prescribed by law be observed by law enforcement officials. The principal shall make every reasonable effort to contact the parents/guardians to inform them of what is transpiring.

Adopted: 04/14/86

Revised: 12/14/98