

POLICY TITLE: Student Rights and Responsibilities – Searches of Students – Search and Seizure by School Personnel		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 9/13/2004	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: 5/20/2004
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Students		

The Board of Education has the responsibility to provide students and staff with a safe and secure learning environment. The Board recognizes that there are circumstances that will justify the search of students and their possessions and herein establishes the following provisions for such searches.

1. A principal, assistant principal, or school security guard may make a reasonable search of a student on the school premises or on a school-sponsored trip if the searcher has a reasonable belief that the student has in the student's possession an item, the possession of which is a criminal offense under the laws of this State or a rule or regulation of the Board of Education. Any such search shall be made in the presence of a third party.
2. A principal, assistant principal, or school security guard may make a search of the physical plant of the school and its appurtenances including the lockers of students. The right of the school official to search the locker shall be announced or published previously in the school.
3. If designated in writing by the principal, a teacher may make a reasonable search of a student on a school-sponsored trip if the teacher has a reasonable belief that the student has in the student's possession an item, the possession of which is a criminal offense under the laws of this State or a violation of any other State law or a rule or regulation of the Board of Education.
 - a) To qualify to conduct a search under this section, a teacher must receive appropriate training to conduct a search.
 - b) Any search conducted pursuant to paragraph 3 above shall be made in the presence of a third party.
4. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice.
5. Illegal items (drugs, weapons, etc.) or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others may be seized by school authorities at any time.

6. Items which are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from the student's possession.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Patricia L. Skebeck

Patricia L. Skebeck, Secretary and Treasurer
Board of Education of Harford County

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Reaffirmed	6/9/1980	Amended	9/13/2004		
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