

FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: **STUDENT SEARCHES**

ADOPTED: MAY 17, 1995

REVISED: OCTOBER 20, 2004
MAY 9, 2007

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">226.1. STUDENT SEARCHES</p> <p>The district shall adhere to the principle that student searches will be conducted only when there are circumstances that a search is warranted.</p> <p>Personal searches of students will be made only when there is reasonable suspicion for such a search and will be limited to the student emptying his/her pockets, purse, or other personal articles including, but not limited to, shoes, socks, backpack, belt, and if deemed warranted, a patdown to detect hidden objects. Reasonable suspicion will be determined by a school administrator before a search is considered.</p> <p>Personal body searches will not be made under any circumstances by school personnel, nor will any statements be made by school personnel that such searches may occur.</p> <p>If an event occurs in which a student is suspected of hiding on his/her person a substance or object that is prohibited by law, Board policy or district rules, or constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself, the student will be confronted in accordance with the following guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student will be confronted about the incident if there is reasonable suspicion that the student does, in fact, have the item(s) of concern on his/her body. 2. If the student does not, at his/her own volition, retrieve the item(s) and present them to the administrator in charge, the parent/guardian will be called about the incident. <p>If the parent/guardian will come to the school, they may question the student regarding the incident.</p> <p>If the student does not voluntarily produce the alleged item(s), the parent/guardian will then be asked to deal with the student to retrieve the item(s).</p>
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The failure to produce an item does not preclude disciplinary proceedings if circumstantial evidence sufficient to cause appropriate authorities to believe the suspected act occurred exists.

3. If the parent/guardian does not agree to come to the school and deal with the situation immediately or within a reasonable period of time, the student will be apprised that the complainant may file civil charges.
4. If an incident occurs in which the health, welfare, or safety of **the school population** is involved, legal authorities as well as the parent/guardian will be requested to come to the school.
5. The student shall be closely supervised until the authorities take the responsibility for the student.
6. Only legal authorities (i.e. police) may conduct a body search, which shall occur off the school premises.
7. The Superintendent shall be notified of the incident.
8. **The building administrator shall be responsible for promptly recording in writing each student search: such record shall include the reason(s) for the search, person present, objects found and their disposition.**

Searches conducted by the administration may include but not limited to utilization of certified drug dogs, metal detection units, hand wands, or any **device used** to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the school population.