

# Williamson County Board of Education

**Adopted Date:**

Rev. 4/18/05;8/21/06;  
8/17/09;Editorial 6/19/14

6.303

INTERROGATIONS and SEARCHES

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## Interrogations

Students may be questioned by teachers or Principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning shall be conducted discretely and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student being questioned. A student intentionally answering with false information or refusing to answer a proper question may be subject to disciplinary action. If a student is suspected of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the administrator may question the student without the presence of a parent/guardian.

## Searches

Any Principal, or designee, having reasonable suspicion of a violation of a law, a school rule, or the existence of a potentially dangerous situation may search any student, place, or thing on school property or in the actual or constructive possession of any student during an off-campus school activity.

A student may be subject to physical search, or a student's pocket, purse or other container may be required to be emptied because of the results of a locker search, or because of information received from a teacher, staff member, other student, or other person if such action is reasonable to the Principal.

Strip searches shall not be conducted by employees of Williamson County Schools. Students may be subjected to pat down searches, metal detector searches, and thorough clothing searches in order to discover and retrieve concealed weapons and contraband substances. Pat down searches shall be done with the back of the hand. Pat down searches, metal detector searches and thorough clothing searches shall be completed by a Principal or Principal's designee of the same sex as the student being searched and shall be witnessed by at least one other school employee. Pat down searches shall be conducted in an area of privacy so that the search cannot be observed by persons not participating in the search. The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to promptly notify the parents after any pat down search.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the authority of a licensed law enforcement officer to carry out his/her duties.

Whenever the possibility of uncovering evidence of a criminal nature exists, the Principal or his/her designee may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to:

1. Search any area of the school premises, any student or any motor vehicle on the school premises; or
2. Identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy.

The involvement of law enforcement officials is encouraged when there is reasonable suspicion that criminal evidence is about to be uncovered.

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1 **School Resource Officers In Schools**

2 School Resource Officers (SRO) are assigned by the Sheriff to high schools and middle schools  
3 which Williamson County Schools and the Sheriff agree shall receive an SRO. This officer is  
4 recognized as a law enforcement officer employed by the Sheriff with the authority and  
5 responsibility of a law enforcement officer. While on duty as a SRO in the school, the officer may  
6 confer with or counsel with students as necessary and within legal due process.  
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9 If the Principal has requested assistance by the School Resource Officer (SRO) to investigate a  
10 crime involving his/her school, the SRO (or other law enforcement officer) shall have permission to  
11 interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The Principal shall make reasonable  
12 efforts to promptly notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians of the student of the intended  
13 interrogation except in extreme situations. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of  
14 the parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians. The Principal or his/her designee shall be present  
15 during the interrogation.  
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18 If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for crimes  
19 committed outside of the school hours unrelated to school and school activities, the law  
20 enforcement officer shall first contact the Principal regarding the planned interrogation and inform  
21 him/her of the probable cause to investigate within the school. The Principal shall make  
22 reasonable efforts to promptly notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians of the  
23 interrogation except in extreme situations. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of  
24 the parent(s)/ guardian(s)/ or legal custodians, in which case, the Principal or his/her designee shall  
25 be present during the interrogation.  
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28 **Search Dogs**

29 Dogs or other animals trained to detect drugs or dangerous weapons may be used in conducting  
30 searches, but the animals shall not be used to search the persons of students or visitors.  
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33 **Metal Detectors**

34 The use of hand-held or walk-through metal detectors to check a student's person or personal  
35 effects is permitted.  
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37 **School Cooperation with Law Enforcement**

38 All school personnel shall cooperate to the fullest extent in support of the police and sheriff  
39 departments in the prosecution of persons charged with violation of the law with respect to the  
40 physical properties and / or personnel, or students under direction of the Board. School personnel  
41 shall, when requested, appear in court.  
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1 **Arrest Warrants**

2 Legal warrants for the arrest of a pupil, presented by a law enforcement officer to the Principal,  
3 must be honored by the Principal. In such cases, the parent should be informed of the action taken  
4 by the law enforcement officer as soon as possible.  
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6 Williamson County Board of Education incorporates by reference the following state laws regarding  
7 search and seizure.  
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- 9
- 10 TCA 49-6-4202 Definitions
  - 11 TCA 49-6-4203 Legislative Intent
  - 12 TCA 49-6-4204 Search of Lockers
  - 13 TCA 49-6-4205 Search of Persons and Containers
  - 14 TCA 49-6-4207 Use of Metal Detectors
  - 15 TCA 49-6-4208 Use of Animals
  - 16 TCA 49-6-4209 Report of Reasonable Suspicion by Principal to Law Enforcement Officer
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23 NOTE: The Board of Education encourages a reader to research the above listed laws to fully  
24 understand an explanation of Search and Seizure. The above cited laws may be found on the  
25 Internet at: <http://www.state.tn.us/education/mlegal.shtml>  
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46 **Legal References:**

47 TCA 49-6-4202 through TCA 49-6-4212

46 **Cross References:**

47 6.309 Zero Tolerance  
48 6.409 Child Abuse and Neglect  
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