

### **Student Rights**

- A. Students shall have the right to equal opportunity without discrimination in all aspects of the education and activities program and without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, religion, economic status, sex, pregnancy, marital status, previous arrests, previous incarceration, or disability (WAC 180-40-215).
- B. Students shall enjoy freedom of speech. The expression of personal opinions shall not substantially disrupt the operation of the school or interfere with the rights of others.
- C. Students shall enjoy freedom of the press. Publications or other material written or created electronically by students shall not substantially disrupt the operation of the school or interfere with the rights of others.
- D. Students shall enjoy freedom of assembly. Students may assemble peacefully. The expression of opinions and beliefs, individually or by assembly, shall not substantially disrupt the operation of the school or interfere with the freedom of others to express themselves.
- E. Students shall be free from unlawful interference by other students in the pursuit of education.
- F. Students shall be free from verbal, written or physical acts of harassment, hostility, or defamation in any form based upon race, creed, color, national origin, religion, economic status, sex, pregnancy, marital status, previous arrests, previous incarceration, or disability.
- G. General search of school property may be conducted at any time without prior notice and without reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of any particular student's violation of law or rules of student conduct.
  - 1. No student may use a locker, desk or storage areas as a depository for any contraband substance or object which is prohibited by law or by rules of student conduct which pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself. Contraband means items, materials or substances, the possession of which is prohibited by law or rules governing student conduct, including but not limited to controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or any object that can reasonably be considered a firearm or dangerous weapon.
  - 2. If a school official conducting a search of a locker, desk or storage area develops a reasonable suspicion that any container, including but not limited to a purse, backpack, gym bag or an article of clothing, contains evidence of a student's violation of the law or rules of conduct, the container may be searched.

3. Search of a student's possessions shall be reasonably related to the discovery of a contraband substance or object which is prohibited by law or by the rules of conduct which pose a threat to the health and safety or welfare of the occupants of the school or the building itself.
  4. The search shall be conducted in the presence of the student, if possible.
- H. All students shall be free from unreasonable searches of their persons, clothing, and other personal property. However, a student is subject to a search by school officials, consistent with the limitations described below.
1. Any search of a student must be reasonably related to the discovery of contraband items or other evidence of a student's violation of the law or rules governing student conduct.
  2. Staff shall conduct searches in a manner which is not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction. No student shall be subject to a strip search or body cavity search by school staff.
  3. Once reasonable grounds for a search of a student's clothing, personal effects, desk, locker, storage area or automobile have been established:
    - a. The principal or designee shall have an additional administrator or staff member present as a witness during the search.
    - b. Prior to the search of personal effects by the administrators, students will be asked to remove items from pockets, purses, handbags, backpacks, gym bags or other personal effects.
    - c. If evidence of a violation of school or district rules is suspected and if the student refuses to cooperate in a personal search, the student should be held until the student's parent or guardian is available to consent to the search. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached in a reasonable time, the administrator may conduct the search without the student's consent.
    - d. If evidence of criminal activity is suspected to be present and if confirmed by the search, law enforcement officials should be immediately contacted for assistance.
- I. Contraband or illegal items such as explosives, weapons or any object that can be reasonably considered a firearm or dangerous weapon, controlled substances or other possessions reasonably considered to be a threat to the safety, health, or security of others will be confiscated.
- J. Items used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from a student's possession.
- K. Students may petition the school or district for redress of grievances.

