

## Decatur County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in March</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Interrogations and Searches</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.303</b>	Issued Date: <b>07/13/17</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.303</b>	Issued: <b>10/11/07</b>

### 1 **INTERROGATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

2 Students may be questioned by teachers or principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a  
3 school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning must be conducted discreetly and under  
4 circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering  
5 falsely, or evasively or refusing to answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including  
6 suspension.

7 If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the  
8 principal may interrogate the student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

### 9 **INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE (AT ADMINISTRATOR'S REQUEST)**

10 If the principal has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her  
11 school, the police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The principal shall  
12 first attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise.  
13 However, the interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the  
14 principal or his/her designee shall be present during the interrogation.

### 15 **POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS**

16 If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated  
17 crimes committed outside of school hours, the police department shall first contact the principal  
18 regarding the planned interrogation and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate. The  
19 principal shall make reasonable effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the interrogation unless  
20 circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the  
21 parent(s)/guardian(s), but the principal or his/her designee shall be present during the interrogation.

### 22 **SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

23 In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the director of schools shall develop  
24 procedures regarding the searching of students, lockers, vehicles, and containers which are consistent  
25 with state law and regulations. The director shall develop additional procedures to ensure compliance  
26 with all of the provisions of the School Security Act of 1981.<sup>1</sup>

### 27 **USE OF ANIMALS**

28 When necessary, dogs or other animals trained to detect drugs or dangerous weapons may be used in  
29 conducting searches, but the animals shall be used only to pinpoint areas which need to be searched and  
30 shall not be used to search students or visitors.

## 1 USE OF METAL DETECTORS

2 In view of the escalating presence of weapons in the schools, the Board of Education authorizes the use  
3 of hand-held or walk-through metal detectors to check a student's person or personal effects.

4 School officials or law enforcement officers may conduct metal detector checks of groups of individuals  
5 if the checks are done in a minimally-intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner (e.g. on all students in a  
6 randomly selected class or every third individual entering an athletic event). Metal detector checks of  
7 groups of individuals may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals.

8 If a school official or a law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that a particular  
9 student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon, he/she may  
10 conduct a metal detector check of the student's person and personal effects.

11 A student's failure to permit a metal detector check as provided in this policy will be considered grounds  
12 for disciplinary action including possible suspension.

13 The director of schools shall develop procedures for the use of metal detectors.

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### Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4201 to 4218

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### Cross References

Procedural Due Process 6.302  
Child Abuse and Neglect 6.409