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SEARCHES

BOARD ADOPTED MAY 15, 2017

202 SEARCHES

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3 **A. PURPOSE**

- 4 1. The Board respects the right of students to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures as
5 well as its responsibility to fulfill the Intermediate Unit's interest in protecting and preserving the
6 health, safety, and welfare of the school population; enforcing rules of conduct; and maintaining
7 an appropriate atmosphere conducive to learning.

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9 **B. AUTHORITY**

- 10 1. Intermediate Unit officials have the authority to lawfully search students or their belongings,
11 including lockers, automobiles, electronic devices, purses, backpacks, clothing, and other
12 possessions, without a warrant, when in an Intermediate Unit facility, while attending an
13 Intermediate Unit program, while on Intermediate Unit grounds, or when otherwise under
14 supervision of the Intermediate Unit, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the place or thing to be
15 searched contains prohibited contraband; material that would pose a threat to the health, safety,
16 and welfare of the school population; or evidence that there has been a violation of the law, Board
17 policy, or school rules. The scope and extent of searches must be reasonable in relation to the
18 nature of the suspected evidence, contraband, or dangerous material, and to the grounds for
19 suspecting that it may be found in the place or thing being searched.
- 20 2. The Board has a compelling interest in protecting and preserving the health, safety, and welfare
21 of the school population, which under certain circumstances may warrant general or random
22 searches of students and their lockers, vehicles, or other belongings without individualized
23 suspicion, for the purpose of finding or preventing entry onto Intermediate Unit property and into
24 Intermediate Unit programs of controlled substances, weapons, or other dangerous materials.

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26 **C. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- 27 1. The Board authorizes the administration to conduct searches of students or their belongings,
28 including lockers, automobiles, electronic devices, purses, backpacks, clothing, and other
29 possessions in accordance with all applicable legal standards. When the Intermediate Unit
30 program is located in a district that has an adopted policy governing searches, Intermediate Unit
31 employees shall comply with such policy. Intermediate Unit employees working in locations
32 without such policy shall comply with this Board policy.

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34 **D. GUIDELINES**

- 35 1. The Director of Special Programs & Services or designee shall develop administrative guidelines
36 and procedures regarding searches, in accordance with all applicable legal standards.

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2. Students, parents/guardians and staff shall be notified at least annually through the student handbook, or more often if deemed appropriate by administration, about the standards and procedures in effect pursuant to this policy.