

# Millington Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Interrogations and Searches</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.303</b>	Issued Date: <b>03/17/16</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.303</b>	Reviewed/Revised: <del>06/06/22</del> <b>06/05/23</b>

## INTERROGATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

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 discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering falsely or evasively or refusing to answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

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

## INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE AT PRINCIPAL'S REQUEST

If the principal has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The principal shall first attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise. However, the interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the principal/designee shall be present during the interrogation.<sup>1</sup>

## POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS

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

## SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the Director of Schools shall develop procedures regarding the searching of students, lockers, vehicles, and containers which are consistent with state law. The Director of Schools shall develop additional procedures to ensure compliance with all of the provisions of the School Security Act of 1981.<sup>1,2</sup>

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**Legal References**

1. TCA 49-6-4203(b)
2. TCA 49-6-4201 *et seq.*; Tenn. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 14-21 (February 24, 2014)

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**Cross References**

Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403  
Procedural Due Process 6.302  
Reporting Child Abuse 6.409