

**SEARCH OF STUDENTS**

The Gore Board of Education believes that all students should be free from unreasonable search and seizure by school officials. However, it shall be the policy of the board that the superintendent, principal, teacher, and security personnel shall have the authority to search a student and a student's property when there is reasonable suspicion for such searches. The superintendent is instructed to establish a regulation for board approval that supports this policy.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-102**

**NEW LAW PROVISIONS as of November 1, 2023:**

The newly revised law will allow removal of shoes as well as hand and head coverings during a reasonable suspicion search of a student in accordance with state law requirements. Religious headwear is exempt from removal.

**Who may legally search students at school?**

Oklahoma law allows the superintendent, principal, a teacher or school security personnel to search a student at school if reasonable suspicion exists regarding a particular student that the student has contraband or stolen property in their possession at school. The individual facts will determine whether reasonable suspicion exists to search a student. State law requires the person who conducts the search to be in one of the aforementioned categories and must be of the same gender as the student. A witness must be present, and the witness should be of the same gender if possible.

**2. When can the personal belongings of students be searched?**

Reasonable suspicion must exist to search a student or their personal belongings at school. The reasonable suspicion must be able to be clearly articulated and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Random searches of student belongings are not allowed under Oklahoma statute.

**3. What about lockers?**

As long as the school district includes language in the student handbook stating students do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy towards school employees regarding lockers, desks or other school owned property, school property may be searched at any time.

Any vehicle on district property is subject to all laws and regulations and may be searched under this policy for reasonable suspicion.