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| <u>Section J:</u><br><br><b>Students</b> | <b>Knox County Board of Education</b>            |                          |                          |
|  | Descriptor Term:                                 | Descriptor Code:         | Issued:                  |
|  | <b>Random Searches For<br/>Dangerous Weapons</b> | <b>J-201</b>             | <b>11/08</b>             |
|  |  | Reviewed:<br><b>7/17</b> | Revised:<br><b>10/17</b> |

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It is the goal of Knox County Schools to provide a safe learning environment free from dangerous weapons.<sup>1</sup> The use of dangerous weapons has reached a life threatening level and, therefore, random searches are necessary to protect the student body.<sup>2</sup>

All vehicles, lockers other storage areas, containers, packages and their contents brought onto the school property by students or visitors are subject to search for weapons.<sup>3</sup>

Random searches will be conducted in a manner no more intrusive than necessary to achieve the goal of preventing firearms and other dangerous weapons in schools. Random personal searches of students may be conducted on school campuses by the use of walk-through metal detectors or hand held magnometers.<sup>4</sup> Any provision in this policy shall not preclude the school district from conducting reasonable searches as approved in Policy J-200 where such a search is warranted to protect the safety of students and staff.

Containers carried on campus by students, including, but not limited to, backpacks, book bags, handbags and musical instrument cases, are subject to search by certified explosives detection canine, hand held magnometers, x-ray machine or physical inspection by authorized school employees.

Material held in contravention of Knox County Board of Education policy and other contraband discovered during the course of a random search for firearms or other dangerous weapons shall be confiscated and students in possession of such items will be subject to discipline.

The Director of Schools shall develop administrative procedures so that random student searches are not targeted to any individual, group, class, race, gender, school, or geographical area unless there is a specific and reasonable suspicion that such a search is warranted to protect the safety of students. The Director of Schools shall personally approve all random searches of schools.

Random search protocols may be conducted at athletic events or other Knox County Schools events at the discretion of the Director of Schools.

As required by Tennessee law, firearms, other dangerous weapons and controlled substances as defined by Tennessee law<sup>5</sup> discovered in the course of a random search for firearms or other dangerous weapons shall be reported to law enforcement.<sup>6</sup>

Policy J-201 has been promulgated to address the Board's concern about the significant increase in dangerous weapons found in Knox County Schools based on gun violence in our community. Unless further action is taken by the Board, this policy shall expire and Knox County Schools shall cease doing random searches at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year.

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Legal References:

1. T.C.A. § 49-6-4203(a).
2. T.C.A. § 49-6-4203(e)(2).
3. T.C.A. § 49-6-4204(a).
4. T.C.A. § 49-6-4207.
5. T.C.A. § 39-17-401, et seq.
6. T.C.A. § 49-6-4209.

Approved as to Legal Form  
By Knox County Law Director 8/25/2017  
*/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director*