



# Student Search Policy

Public Charter High School

The primary objective of any Student Safety Search is to create a process that promotes a safe school community and learning environment. School policies clearly outline the list of prohibited items (see Handbook at <http://thurgoodmarshallacademy.org/students/student-resources/>) and students are expected to abide by these policies at all times.

Students should not have an expectation of privacy when it comes to searches. From time to time, the school may perform random searches of lockers and bags to ensure students are following the articulated policies. We do this to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff.

Please note, the school may request the assistance of the Metropolitan Police Department while conducting the search but is not obligated to do so.

## **Lockers:**

Each student will be issued a school locker. Lockers are property of the school and students are not allowed to use their own locks on lockers. Lockers are subject to reasonable search at any time. Students should not have an expectation of privacy when it comes to their lockers.

## *Search of Locker Contents:*

Random searches of school lockers have a positive impact on deterring violations of school rules and regulations, ensure proper maintenance of school property, and provide greater safety and security for the students, staff, faculty and visitors. Accordingly, the school has the right to conduct student safety searches, without notice, and without parental/guardianship consent. The school may search individual locker contents as a part of a random search or targeted search where there is reasonable suspicion that contraband is present.

Thurgood Marshall Academy (TMA) school officials will respect the privacy of the student regarding any items discovered that are not illegal or against school policy and rules.

## **Personal Searches:**

Thurgood Marshall Academy school officials have the right to conduct individual searches when it is suspected that a student or a small group of students have violated the law or school rules and may be in possession of prohibited items. Additionally, the school may perform personal searches for all students during a designated random search. NOTE: the school will **not** perform any search that requires



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students to remove clothing, but may use a magnetometer wand to detect items not visible during the search.

## *Individual Search due to Reasonable Suspicion*

When a prohibited item is suspected, the school will isolate the student or group of students and a search will be conducted such that each student is searched by two adults. School officials may ask the student to:

- take off any coats, sweaters, or sweatshirts or clothing that is on top of the TMA uniform
- completely empty and pull out all pockets on a student's pants
- take off their shoes

The school officials will search the contents of the student's personal belongings that are not on their body and confiscate any items that violate the law or the school's code of conduct.

## *Random Search*

Thurgood Marshall Academy has the right to conduct random or blanket searches as a preventive measures. Examples of random searches include:

- The use of metal detectors/wands
- Sweeps of parking lots and lockers
- Search of personal belongings

Thurgood Marshall Academy may conduct random searches at any point during the school year. During a random search school officials may ask the student to:

- take off any coats, sweaters, or sweatshirts or clothing that is on top of the TMA uniform
- Wand students with a metal detector
- completely empty and pull out all pockets on a student's pants
- take off their shoes

The school officials will search the contents of the student's personal belongings that are not on their body and confiscate any items that violate the law or the school's code of conduct.

## **Seizure:**

When conducting locker searches, individual searches, or random searches Thurgood Marshall Academy may seize any illegal, prohibited or otherwise unauthorized items including items in violation of the TMA



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Code of Conduct, or any other items reasonably determined to be a potential threat to the safety or security of others. Law enforcement officials shall be notified immediately upon seizure of items that schools are required to report to law enforcement agencies under DC Code. The parent/guardian of a student shall be notified by a School Administrator of items confiscated.

**Notice of Policy:**

A copy of the Student Search Policy will be available on the school website. Thurgood Marshall Academy reserves the right to amend the policy as needed.