**Operating Policy No. 3230**

**Students**

**SEARCHES OF STUDENTS AND STUDENT PRIVACY**

Searches of Students and Personal Property

Personal privacy is a fundamental aspect of individual liberty. All students possess the constitutional right to be secure in their persons, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. Staff willtake particular care to respect students' privacy.

School officials have authority to maintain order and discipline in the school and to protect students from exposure to illegal drugs, weapons, and contraband. The principal, and other designated staff at ReLife School, have the authority to conduct reasonable searches on school property in accordance with the law.

**Student Privacy**

**Adult Students, Emancipated Minors, and Confidential Health Information**

State law provides that at certain ages, students attain the right to decide for themselves what records will remain confidential, even from their parents, and what activities the student will participate in. At age eighteen students become legal adults and must approve any disclosure of information about themselves from school records, except directory information if a request for confidentiality has not been filed. Students at age eighteen may also sign releases, authorizations, or permission slips to participate in school activities, and may sign themselves out of school and authorize their own absences.

Students between sixteen and eighteen who have been granted legal emancipation from their parents or guardians have the same rights as eighteen-year-old students.

Students over fourteen years of age have confidentiality rights in records indicating that they have been tested or treated for a sexually transmitted disease. Students thirteen years and older have confidentiality rights in records regarding drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment.

All students have confidentiality rights in family planning or abortion records.

**Procedures**

ReLife School procedures for conducting searches of students will be included in the Student and

Parent handbook.

Adopted: January 2014

Revised: May 2019

Revised: September 2023

Relevant Board Governance Policy: EL 3 Transformational Relationships

Cross References: Operating Policy No. 3245 Students and Telecommunication Devices

 Operating Policy No. 3231 Student Records

Legal References: 34 CFR § 99.5 What are the rights of students?

42 CFR § 2.14 Minor patients

RCW 9.02.100 Reproductive privacy—Public policy

 RCW13.64.060 Power and Capacity of emancipated minor

 RCW28A.320.040 Bylaws for board and school government

 RCW28A.600.020 Exclusion of student from classroom - Written disciplinary procedures - Long-term suspension or expulsion

RCW28A.600.210-240 School official searches of student lockers—No expectation of privacy—Authorization—Limitations—Notice and reasonable suspicion requirements

RCW 70.02.220 Sexually transmitted diseases—Permitted and mandatory disclosures

RCW 70.02.240 Mental health services—Minors—Permitted disclosures

RCW 70.02.265 Adolescent behavioral health services—Disclosures of treatment information and records—Restrictions and requirements