

# LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #12

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Superintendent

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students,

Beginning the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year, LHS and LMS will be using a new tool to assist in combating the use of vapes on school premises. Both LHS and LMS administration will be utilizing a handheld wand device to assist in searches when there is reasonable suspicion "that the particular student has violated or is violating either the law of the school or district's student rules and policies," as outlined in the Search and Seizure policy below.

We want to assure parents, guardians, and students that the handheld wand will only be used in instances of reasonable suspicion of an individual in possession of and/or using a vape or in possession of any other item that could impact student and staff safety. This handheld wand will allow administration to conduct the search efficiently and respectfully for all parties involved.

It is our duty as administration to uphold a safe and secure learning environment, and we will continue to review and develop policies that help us to do so.

If you have further questions, please contact the building administrator.

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## **Search and Seizure**

In order to maintain order, safety, and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School Authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

### **School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students**

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school, such as lockers, desk, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student.

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

### **Seizure of Property**

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

### **Students**

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence that the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.