

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: YOUR GUIDE TO INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT



"I want to reassure students, staff, and families that my primary focus is school safety and security. Making sure students are aware of their rights and understand their protections under the law when engaging with law enforcement is one of many ways to ensure student safety at all times."

—Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

IF YOU ARE SEARCHED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- You do not have to consent to a search. If you do not wish to consent to a search, politely tell the officer, "I do not consent to this search."
- Law enforcement may decide to continue the search if they have reasonable suspicion to conduct it, but by refusing consent, you protect your rights if you are arrested and charged with a crime.
- Law enforcement may not search your phone without a warrant.

A search is when an officer looks through your belongings to investigate a crime. Voluntarily giving an officer your belongings, including your phone, is considered consenting to a search.



*Think.
Breathe.
Know Your Rights.*

WHEN INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- **Remain calm.** You may calmly ask if you are free to leave; if you are, then you may quietly and calmly walk away.
- **You have the right to remain silent.** Tell the officer, "I am invoking my right to remain silent and do not consent to speaking with you." If you are asked to write a statement or sign one, you can refuse by stating, "I do not want to make a statement," or "I wish to remain silent."
- **You may ask to speak to your parent or guardian** by saying, "I would like to speak to my parent/guardian." However, law enforcement can talk to you without a parent/guardian present, or before a parent/guardian has been made aware of an incident. You still have the right to remain silent. You may tell the officers that you invoke your right to remain silent and not speak to them.
- **You have the right to ask for a lawyer** and the right to remain silent.

YOU SHOULD NOT:

- Argue, resist or flee.
- Make or sign a statement that you are uncomfortable with, that is not correct, or that you don't understand.
- Resist or try to harm an officer.

