

Editor's Introduction to *Checklists for Searches and Seizures in Public Schools*, 2026 edition

This publication is written for anyone who has to comply with the very complex constitutional rules now governing searches and seizures. This volume provides a detailed overview of the limitations placed on principals and other school officials when they conduct searches and seizures. It suggests how officials can conduct searches without violating students' rights and provides a complete, in-depth discussion of pertinent laws and cases. This title offers timely, practice-proven guidance for attorneys representing plaintiffs or defendants in civil rights cases.

Highlights of the 2026 edition include discussion of:

- *O.W. v. Carr*, wherein the Fourth Circuit considered the search of a middle school student's phone's photo gallery by the assistant principal who had reason to believe the student possessed a sexually explicit picture of a classmate. (§ 1:12)
- *Halasz v. Cass City Public Schools*, involving the physical search of student after he purportedly made a threat involving a firearm on school property. (§ 4:4)
- *Matter of K.P.*, in which an Ohio court determined the inevitable discovery doctrine saved a handgun seized from a student from suppression. (§ 7:4)
- *Rodney K. v. Mobile Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, a case out of the 11th Circuit involving an alleged school "tradition" of hazing where older high school football players would gang up on younger players. (§ 9:4)
- *Loera v. Kingsville Independent School District*, which involved complaints against the school district for rehiring a high school who, during his first stint at the school, had been investigated for "boundary-blurring behavior" with students and who sexually abused a minor student after being rehired. (§ 14:11)