

# Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

## Discussion Questions: *Safford Unified School District #1 v. Redding* and the Fourth Amendment and Student Searches

- Do you think the Court made the right decision in *Safford Unified School District #1 v. Redding*?
- In your opinion, what policy best balances individual rights and ensures safety of students while at school?
- What does your school student search policy say? Do you think your policy at your school is fair? Please explain.
- Can you think of instances when student searches should NOT be allowed? Should be allowed? Can you support your arguments with any of the reasoning outlined in the *Safford* decision?
- Do you think student search policies should be the same for every school in the State of Illinois? Why or why not?

## Reflect on Student Survey Results

- Reflect/Review the Student Survey and the results for your class. After attending the conference, would you respond differently? Discuss your views with your peers. Did their views change? or stay the same?

## Invite an Resource Person to Class

- Invite your principal, dean or a school board member to class to discuss *Safford* and the survey results.
- Invite an attorney familiar with Fourth Amendment issues to class to talk about the Fourth Amendment and how it is balanced with the other rights of citizens and responsibilities of government.
- Check out Student Survey responses at <http://www.crfc.org/programs/eqljust.php>

## Extension Activities

- Peer Teach – Survey at least one other class to see what your peers think about the Fourth Amendment and Student Searches. Tally the results and post on CRFC website.
- Write an op-ed piece about the Fourth Amendment and Student Searches for publication in your school newspaper, local media, or your school website.

- Contact members of your school administration to find out what opportunities exist for students to voice their opinions about issues of importance to them.
- Attend a city council/village board meeting to find out how policies are made in your city/village. Write a summary for your school newspaper; post on your school website.