

Students

Search and Seizure

Under the following conditions, school officials may conduct searches of pupils, their personal belongings and school property under joint control:

1. If there are reasonable grounds based on facts to suspect that the search will produce evidence that the pupil is violating the law or school regulations.
2. If the person conducting the search can state which law or school rule has been or is being violated.
3. If the factual basis for the search is recent and credible.
4. If the measures taken in conducting the search are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and are not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the pupil and the nature of the violation.
5. If the evidence seized from the search of the student is to be given to law enforcement or to be used in student discipline proceedings.

If a search discloses evidence of other breaches of the law or of the school rule, the search may then proceed to the extent justified by the newer discovered evidence.

Each search of a pupil shall be conducted by a school official of the same sex as the pupil being searched and shall be conducted in the presence of a third party of the same sex as the pupil being searched. In cases of immediate threat to the physical safety of other persons, a pupil may be searched by either sex without a witness. Under no circumstance may a strip search or a visual or physical body cavity search of a pupil be conducted.

A school official may search student lockers or other enclosures used by pupils for storage or any areas accessible to pupils including school buses. Except in a situation involving a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of pupils or school personnel, a search of student lockers, etc., or pupil possessions must be performed in the presence of another staff member and, if possible, the student. A genuine attempt shall be made to find the student from the current or next class period (excluding lunch period). If a student is absent for any reason from the current or next class period, the search can proceed. If the presence of an explosive is suspected, the school official may ask law enforcement to conduct the search.

At the beginning of the year or upon enrollment, all students will be given a written notice that the lockers are school property and subject to being opened by school staff.

Use of Trained Detection Canines

In the utilization of trained detection canines, the district will adhere to the following administrative guidelines:

1. Under no circumstances will a canine be allowed to sniff the person of a student, employee, patron, visitor or anyone else while on District property or at any district-sponsored event. The canines shall not be used in classrooms occupied by students, except for demonstration purposes.
2. A canine may be used to sniff lockers, common areas, desks, bags, items, or vehicles that are on district property and school sponsored events.
3. Only the canine's official handler will determine what constitutes an alert by the canine. If the canine alerts to a particular item or place, the person responsible for that item or place will be called to the scene to witness the search if available. Ownership of the item or place will be established and search activities will be conducted in accordance with District policy and applicable law.
4. In the event that the canine alerts on a vehicle, the owner or person bringing it on to District property or school sponsored events shall be asked to open the vehicle for inspection to be conducted by the canine handler. Refusal to open the vehicle for inspection may result in referring the matter to law enforcement officials, disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion of students, and the loss of parking privileges for students. Visitors or patrons may be banned from District property.
5. Discovery of prohibited substances or items may result in referral to law enforcement or disciplinary actions in accordance with District policy with respect to students.
6. Students shall be informed of this policy at the beginning of each school year or upon their enrollment.

For purposes of this policy a designee is a full-time certificated employee at the school site specifically designated by the principal, in writing, to assist with disciplinary procedure.

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