

## SEARCHES OF STUDENTS, STUDENT DESKS/LOCKERS, AND MOTOR VEHICLES

School administrators are authorized to make searches of persons, personal effects, lockers, and motor vehicles under the conditions outlined in this policy.

- **Personal Searches**

A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g. purse, backpack, book bag, etc.) may be searched when a school administrator/designee has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal, unauthorized, or contraband items.

If a pat down search or a search of a student's garments (such as jackets, socks, pockets, etc.) is conducted, it will be done in private by a person (i.e., administrator, counselor, or teacher) of the same gender with another adult present as witness.

A more intrusive search of the student's person is permissible in emergency situations when the health and safety of the students, employees, or visitors on the school premises are threatened. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a person (i.e., administrator, counselor, or teacher) of the same gender, with another adult of the same gender present, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay caused by following these procedures.

Strip searches are strictly prohibited.

If a personal search has been conducted and illegal, unauthorized, or contraband items are found, the administration will inform the parents/guardians as soon as possible.

- **Locker/Desk Searches**

Although school lockers/desks are temporarily assigned to individual students, they remain the property of the school district at all times.

A student's locker/desk and its contents may be searched when a school administrator has a reasonable suspicion that the locker/desk contains illegal, unauthorized, or contraband items. Emergency situations may necessitate a search with or without the student's knowledge or consent. Whenever possible, the student should be aware of and be involved in a search of such property. Searches must be conducted in the presence of another adult witness.

## Searches of Students, Student Desks/Lockers, and Motor Vehicles (Cont'd.)

- **Maintenance (Locker/Desk) Searches**

The school district has a reasonable and valid interest in ensuring that the lockers/desks are properly maintained. For this reason, periodic inspection of lockers/desks is permissible to check for cleanliness and vandalism. Students will be notified and will participate in general maintenance searches.

- **Vehicle Searches on School Property**

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not a right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lots and inspections of the exterior of vehicles. The interior of a student's vehicle on the school premises may be searched by a school administrator if the administration has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized, or contraband items are contained inside. Such searches must always involve two adults. Whenever possible, the student should be aware of and be involved in a search of the vehicle.

### **Contraband**

Any contraband discovered during searches will be confiscated by the administration. The student's parents/guardians shall be notified if contraband is discovered. The administration may utilize services from outside agencies for assistance when contraband is discovered.

### **Search by Law Enforcement Officials**

Any search and/or seizure by law enforcement officials will occur only when law enforcement officials properly advise school personnel that they have lawful authority to conduct the search and/or seizure.

### **Informing Students and Parents**

Schools shall inform students and parents of this policy regarding searches and provide written copies on request.