

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

As necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, school officials may search students, their property and/or district property under their control, and may seize illegal, unsafe and prohibited items. The Governing Board requires that discretion, good judgment and common sense be exercised in all cases of search and seizure.

### **Individual Searches**

School officials may search individual students, their property and district property under their control, when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, or other rules of the district or the school.

Employees shall not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches of any student.

Searches of individual students shall be conducted in the presence of at least two district employees.

The principal or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of a student subjected to an individualized search as soon as possible after the search.

### **Student Lockers/Desks**

The principal or designee may conduct a general inspection of school properties that are within the control of students, such as lockers and desks, on a regular, announced basis, with students standing by their assigned lockers or desks. Any items contained in a locker or desk shall be considered to be the property of the student to whom the locker or desk was assigned.

Because lockers and desks are under the joint control of the student and the district, school officials shall have the right and ability to open and inspect any school locker or desk without student permission or prior notice when they have reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of illegal possessions or activities or when odors, smoke, fire and/or other threats to health, welfare or safety emanate from the locker or desk.

### **Use of Drug-Detection Dogs**

In an effort to keep the schools free of drugs, the district may use specially trained nonaggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of substances prohibited by law or Board policy. The dogs may sniff the air around lockers, desks, or vehicles on

district property or at district-sponsored events as long as they are not allowed to sniff within the close proximity of any students.

Seizure

School officials are legally authorized to confiscate and shall take from the personal possession of any student any dangerous object, including weapons, and any substance or item prohibited by law or school rules.

Adopted: August 27, 2008  
(Replaces: BP 5131.21 Search and Seizure)  
(Adopted: April 26, 1995)