

JFG - INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

SEARCHES BY STAFF

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted school boards and administrators. Lockers remain the property of the school district and the school district has the right of access to these lockers at any time for any reason. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children and their own and school property.

Whenever school authorities have any cause to believe that articles may be in a locker, desk, or other storage space which constitute contraband or are in violation of a school rule, a search will be made. The following rules apply to the search of school property assigned to a specific student (locker, desk, etc.), and the seizure of items in his possession:

1. There should be reasonable cause for school authorities to believe that articles are kept in the locker, desk, or other storage space whose possession constitutes a crime or rule violation.
2. Search of an area assigned to a student should be for a specifically identified item, and should be conducted in his presence and with his knowledge. Also, one school administrator and one teacher must witness the search.
3. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice.
4. Illegal items (drugs, weapons, etc.) or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others may be seized by school authorities at any time.

SEARCHES OF STUDENT PROPERTY BY POLICE

A proper search warrant is required for any search of a student's personal property kept on school premises; however, upon notification to the administration, if the police have reason to believe any item that might pose an immediate threat to the safety or security of others is kept in a student locker, desk, or other storage space, searches may be conducted without a previously issued warrant.

INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE

The school district has physical custody of students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities. School authorities stand *in loco parentis* to the students and thus have responsibility regarding the circumstances under which access to students is allowed. Therefore:

1. When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or his designee will cooperate. An effort will be made to contact the student's parent or guardian so that the responsible individual may be notified of the situation.
2. Parents or guardians will not be contacted in child abuse cases or other interrogations if the law enforcement official requests confidentiality.
3. If custody and/or arrest is involved and effort will be made to contact the student's parent or guardian.

Adopted: July 13, 2009