

PROCEDURE TO SEARCH SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education is committed to providing students and employees with schools and work places that are free of drugs and weapons. The Board prohibits the presence of drugs, controlled substances, weapons of any type, explosive devices, alcohol, non-authorized medication or any other intoxicant (as defined by state or federal law and/or District policy) on District property or at any District sponsored event. This prohibition applies to employees, students, patrons, visitors and any other person on District property. The Board supports the elimination of the possession or use of illegal substances/devices. The Board wants to convey a strong message to the community, faculty, staff, and student body concerning the use or possession of illegal substances.

The Board shall permit the administration to invite law enforcement agencies or other qualified agencies or individuals to search school property with animals or mechanical means (otherwise referred to as "procedure" in this policy) trained for the purpose of detecting the presence of illegal substances, when necessary to protect the health and safety of students, employees or property and to detect the presence of illegal substances or contraband, including alcohol and/or drugs.

The administration shall authorize the search and the administrative designee shall be present while the search is taking place.

All persons are responsible for the security of any vehicle, locker, desk, bag or other item they possess or bring on to District property or to a District sponsored event. No person shall possess, place, keep or maintain any article or material that is prohibited by law or District policy in items, lockers, vehicles, desks or bags assigned to them or under their control while on District property or at a District sponsored event.

In conjunction with other District security measures, a procedure may be used to sniff the air around lockers, desks, bags, items or vehicles that are on District property or at a District sponsored event. The procedure's alert constitutes reasonable suspicion and only the person in conducting the procedure will determine what constitutes an alert. If the procedure alerts on a particular item or place, that person having the use of, bringing onto District property or responsible for that place or item will be called to the scene to witness the inspection. All inspections shall be made in compliance with District policy and applicable law. All school property such as lockers, classrooms, parking areas and storage areas may be searched; however, the procedure shall not be used in rooms occupied by persons except for demonstration purposes with the handler present. When used for demonstration purposes, the procedure may not sniff the person or any individual. Individual(s) shall not be subjected to a search by use of the procedure.

In the event the procedure alerts on a locked vehicle the owner or person bringing it onto District property shall be asked to open it for inspection.

Refusal to open the item for inspection may result in referring the matter to law enforcement officials, disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or termination of employment for employees and suspension or expulsion for students and loss of parking privileges on District property for students. Visitors or patrons may be banned from District property.

Discovery of prohibited substance may result in referral to law enforcement or disciplinary action including but not limited to termination of employment for employees and referral to law enforcement or disciplinary action in keeping with District policy for students.

Parents and students shall be notified of this policy through its inclusion in the student and/or parent handbook. Once notification has been given to parents and students, the school district will have met its obligation to advertise the searches. Additional notices need not be given and actual times or dates of planned searches need not be released in advance.

Adopted October 21, 2004