

**ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT****QUESTIONING AND SEARCHES OF STUDENTS**

The Board seeks to maintain a safe and orderly environment for students in the Ellsworth schools. School administrators may question and/or search students in accordance with this policy and accompanying administrative procedure.

Students, their personal property, and their vehicles may be searched upon reasonable suspicion that they possess any items or substances which are prohibited by law, Board policies and/or school rules, or which interfere with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

When special circumstances exist, including but not limited to a suspected ongoing violation of the Board's drug/alcohol or weapons policies, or when a potential threat to safety is identified, school administrators may search groups of students or the entire student body without individualized suspicion.

Student use of all school storage facilities, including but not limited to lockers, desks, and parking lots, is a privilege granted by the school. All storage facilities are school property and remain under the control, custody, and supervision of the school. Locks provided by Ellsworth School Department are used to secure student lockers. In athletic facility locker rooms, a student may request a combination lock from the physical education teacher.

Students have no expectation of privacy in school storage facilities or for any items placed in such storage facilities. School administrators have the authority to inspect and search storage facilities and their contents on a random basis, with or without reasonable suspicion, and without notice or consent. Canine patrols may be used.

If a search produces evidence that a student has violated or is violating the law, Board policies and/or school rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school administrators and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence may be forwarded to law enforcement authorities as required by law or as deemed appropriate by school administrators.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement, with input from legal counsel, administrators, and/or other appropriate persons, any administrative procedure necessary to carry out this policy.

This policy and the accompanying procedure will be included in student/parent handbooks. Such administrative procedures shall be subject to Board approval.

Cross Reference:        JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students  
                              JICIA – Weapons, Violence, and School Safety  
                              JK – Student Discipline  
                              KLG – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

**Adopted:                June 24, 2014**  
**Reviewed:             July 10, 2018**