

	ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	NEPN Code: JIH
	POLICIES AND REGULATIONS	

STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHES, AND ARRESTS

School administrators are authorized to make searches of persons, personal effects, lockers, vehicles, and District owned/provided property under the conditions outlined below.

“District owned/provided property” includes, but is not limited to buildings, parking lots, desks, instruments, electronic devices, storage containers, storage areas, lockers, computer systems and equipment, and vehicles. This property is intended for use for educational purposes and District business only.

Personal Searches

A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g. purse, back pack, book bag, cell phone, electronic devices, etc.) may be searched when a school administrator 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 conducted in private by a school administrator of the same gender with another adult of the same gender 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 school administrator of the same gender, with an adult of the same gender present, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay caused by following these procedures.

A District staff member may take possession of a student's personal cell phone or other personal electronic device brought onto District property when the student is observed using the device in a manner contrary to school rules. The electronic device will be delivered to building administration. An administrator may take possession and conduct a search of a student's device brought onto District property if during the course of an investigation of a student discipline violation, the administration has reasonable suspicion that the electronic device may produce evidence related to the discipline violation or there is reasonable suspicion of a safety threat to self or others. In an emergency, an administrator may take possession of and hold the device without the student's knowledge. If the student is arrested, the electronic device shall be turned over to law enforcement.

If a personal search has been conducted, the administration will inform the parent or guardian by the end of the day. If circumstances do not allow for verbal notification on the same day, a letter will be sent.

Student property may also be screened for the presence of weapons or prohibited items (e.g.drugs) by District administration or law enforcement using appropriate detection devices and may be screened in conjunction with law enforcement by using animals trained to locate and/or detect weapons and prohibited items.

Searches of Student Property at Events

Student property, including but not limited to backpacks, book bags, athletic bags, instrument cases and purses may be searched for weapons, drugs, contraband or prohibited items, as a condition of admittance to or participation in any school sponsored public event such as athletic contests, graduation ceremonies or other school programs.

Locker Searches

Although school lockers are temporarily assigned to individual students, they remain the property of the District at all times. However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Students are not to share lockers unless thus assigned by the administration, nor should they share their locker combinations with other students.

Maintenance Locker Searches

The District has a reasonable and valid interest in ensuring that the lockers are properly maintained. For this reason, periodic inspection of lockers is permissible to check for cleanliness and vandalism. General maintenance inspections may be conducted by school staff if so instructed by the principal at any time without notice, without the student's consent and without a search warrant.

Any contraband discovered during such searches will be confiscated by the administration. The administration may refer a student to outside agencies for assistance depending upon the severity of the situation.

Non-Maintenance Locker Searches

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

Vehicle Searches

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 and interior items within plain view. 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. Emergency situations may necessitate a search with or without the student's knowledge or consent. Such searches must always involve two adults.

Scope of any Search

Administration will consider the intrusiveness of the search in light of the age, gender, and the nature of the alleged violation. The scope of any search will be limited to only what is necessary due to the policy/rule violation under investigation. If the search discovers items not related to the policy/rule violation under investigation, but items are found that are in violation of the law or another school policy/rule, the student may be subject to additional discipline for that additional violation.

Law Enforcement Involvement

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 or Guardians

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

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