

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Searches of Students Lockers/Desks/Other Property Available For Student Use

The Superintendent of Schools, school administrators, and, at the Superintendent's discretion, Law Enforcement Officials, are authorized to search student lockers, desks, and any other school property available for use by students for weapons, contraband or the fruits of a crime to safeguard students, their property and school property.

An authorized school administrator and/or authorized law enforcement official may search a student's locker/ desk/other property available for student use under the following conditions:

1. There is reason to believe that the student's desk/locker/other property available for student use contains contraband material.
2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in the school.
3. The student has been informed in advance that school board policy allows desks/lockers/ other property available for student use to be inspected if the administration has reason to believe that materials injurious to the best interests of the students and the school are contained therein.
4. That the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or school rules.

In an emergency and/or in cooperation with law enforcement officials and where the Superintendent of Schools has determined that the best interests of the school community will be served, a search of all lockers/desks/other property available for student use may be conducted.

Student Search

A student may be searched by school officials if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of Education to prescribe rules.
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 53 U.S.W. 4083 (1985)
Public Act 94-115

Administrative Regulations to Policy 5145.12
Search and Seizure

Student Desks/Lockers/Other Property Available for Student Use

Designated officials may have access to student desks/lockers/ other property available for student use when evidence suggests that the welfare of students and other personnel may be threatened.

The decision to search shall be made by the principal or the principal's designee. The search shall be made in the presence of at least one staff witness, after which each participant in the search shall sign a dated register attesting to what each found. Discovery of illegal or dangerous materials shall be reported to the office of the superintendent.