

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

No. 529(b)

Board of Trustees Douglas County School District

STUDENTS

CANINE SNIFFS

The School District may conduct canine sniffs of school hallways, lockers, classrooms, buildings, parking lots, and other school property through the use of a canine unit and may also conduct canine sniffs of the personal property including vehicles of students. Sniffs through canine units will occur at random, at the discretion of the School District and at the availability of a canine unit. Additionally, canine sniffs can occur in response to a reasonable suspicion that an illegal or prohibited substance, weapon, or bomb may be located in the area or on the item being searched. There shall be no canine sniffs of a student's person.

A canine unit consists of the qualified handler and a dog specially trained to detect illegal or prohibited substances, weapons, or bombs. The canine unit may be provided by the Douglas County Sheriff's office or any other agency, public or private. The Douglas County School District, in collaboration with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office or other agency, will determine the place and time of canine sniffs.

The School district will notify students in the student handbook, distributed at the beginning of the year, that canine sniffs of school property and of the student's personal property by a canine unit can occur without notice. Students will not be notified of the specific time or place of the canine sniff only that random canine sniffs can occur.

Prior to a canine sniff occurring on school premises, students shall be requested to vacate the area being searched. If specific inquiry is made as to the appropriateness of the student taking his personal belongings with him, the School District will do nothing to restrict the student from taking his belongings with him.

If a canine unit alerts on an area of school property owned by the school, including lockers, a visual search by school officials can follow immediately.

If a canine unit alerts on an item of personal property (such as a backpack), the following procedure shall be used to conduct the search:

1. The student shall be asked by school personnel to give permission to allow a search of his/her property. If the student gives permission, a reasonable visual search can be conducted immediately.

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2. If the student refuses to give his/her permission, a search can occur in consultation with the site administrator and/or the Douglas County Sheriff's Office:
 - a. immediately, if exigent circumstances exist;
 - b. upon obtaining a warrant authorizing the police to conduct the search. During the time in which the warrant is being obtained, the site administrator shall have the property sequestered and isolate the personal property away from the student.

[See Policy related to this Administrative Regulation](#)

Date adopted: 06/11/02