

Students

Search and Seizure

To maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities," includes school liaison police officers.

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there. This paragraph applies to student vehicles parked on school property.

The Superintendent or designee may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

Students

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as purses, wallets, clothing, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's Student Code of Conduct. The search itself must be conducted in a manner which is reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

School authorities may authorize the random and/or daily use of metal detectors or other similar weapon detection technology on students and their personal effects when they enter school buildings in order to screen for weapons. If metal or an item/weapon is detected, the student will be asked to remove the metal/item causing the alarm and then be retested. If metal/item is again detected, the student or his/her personal effects will be searched. Any schools with metal detectors or other similar weapon detection technology, whether used randomly or daily, must post a sign outside the entrance to be used for metal detector screenings stating: "Any person entering this building may be subject to search." A school should also include information about its metal detector or other similar weapon detection technology program in a student handbook, if any, distributed to students at the beginning of each year or term.

Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and their parents/guardians of each of

the following in accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/1 et. seq.:

1. School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.
2. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

LEGAL REF.: Veronia School District 47J v. Acton, 115 S.Ct. 2386 (1995).
T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 105 S.Ct. 733 (1985).
Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 129 S. Ct. 2633 (2009).
Cornfield v. Consolidated High School Dist. No. 230, 991 F.2d 1316 (7th Cir. 1993).
People v. Dilworth, 661 N.E.2d 310 (1996).
People v. Pruitt, 662 N.E. 2d 540 (Ill. App. 1st Dist. 1996).
105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, and 5/10-22.10a.
Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/1 et. seq.

CROSS REF.: 7.130, 7.150, 7.190
Adopted: October 28, 1997

Revised: August 27, 2002
March 22, 2016
May 23, 2023