

ARTICLE IV. STUDENTS

Section 15. Search and Seizure.

The Board has charged District administration with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, District administration may search school property such as lockers used by students or the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, in accordance with the following policy.

School Property

Lockers and desks used by students remain at all times the property of the District. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official. District administrators may search student lockers and desks at any time and for any reason.

Student Person and Possessions

The privacy of students or his/her belongings may not be violated by an unreasonable search and seizure. No student may be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction, the student's age, and the student's disciplinary history. Reasonable suspicion shall not be required for the use of canines to search a student's possessions as part of a random drug sweep.

Searches may be conducted by administrators, school resource officer(s), or their designees. Efforts should be made to conduct a search in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the principal. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened may be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

A search of a student's person or intimate personal apparel shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened. Strip searches by district employees, school resource officer(s) or any other person acting on behalf of or as a representative of the District, on or off school premises, are not permitted.

Administrators or designated staff members are authorized to utilize a breath-test instrument for the purpose of determining if a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to implement this policy.