

STUDENTSSearches of Students and Personal Property

A student is subject to search by district staff if reasonable grounds exist to suspect that evidence of a violation of the law or school rules will be uncovered. School staff shall report a student's suspicious activity to the principal prior to initiating a search, except in emergency situations.

Establishing reasonable grounds. The following review of the basis for the search should occur before conducting a search:

- A. Identify (1) the student's suspicious conduct, behavior, or activity; (2) the source of the information; and (3) the reliability of the source of such information.
- B. If suspicion could be confirmed, determine if such conduct is a violation of the law or school rules.
- C. Determine if the student is likely to possess or have concealed any item, material, or substance which is itself prohibited or which would be evidence of a violation of the law or a school rule.

Conducting the search. If the principal or his or her designee determines that reasonable grounds exist to search a student's clothing, personal effects, desk, locker, assigned storage area, or automobile, the search shall be conducted as follows:

- A. If evidence of criminal activity is suspected to be present and prosecution by civil authorities will be recommended if confirmed by the search, consult law enforcement officials regarding the appropriateness of a search by a law enforcement officer.
- B. If evidence of violation of a school rule is suspected and if confirmed by the search will be handled solely as a student discipline action, proceed to search by asking the student to remove all items from pockets, purses, handbags, backpacks or gym bags.
- C. If the student refuses to cooperate in a person search, the student should be held until the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) is available to consent to the search. If a parent(s) or guardian(s) cannot be reached in a reasonable time, the principal may conduct the search without the student's consent.
- D. When reasonable grounds have been established, the principal has the authority to use a metal detector. The student should first be advised of the purpose of the search and asked to remove all metal items from his or her person, clothing, or property.