

STUDENT SEARCHES

School Property -- Desks and lockers are school property, and school authorities may make regulations regarding their use. No school official shall inspect or search lockers or desks unless there is a reasonable cause to believe that articles are kept there that may endanger other individuals in the school or that such articles possessed are contrary to law or the regulations or policies of the school and/or Board.

Individuals -- School officials (school principal or approved designee under the direction of the school principal only) may make searches of a student and/or personal belongings if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student is carrying articles that may endanger other individuals in the school or that such articles possessed are contrary to law or the regulations or policies of the school and/or Board. If a student is searched, it will be in private by a school official of the same sex with a certified staff member of the same sex present. In any case where the principal or designee determines that a search of more than a student's pockets, jacket, cap, outer shirt, shoes, socks, belt, purse, book bag, and other outer garments and articles is justified by sufficient reasonable cause, the principal or designee will notify the student's parent or guardian prior to the search and the parent or guardian will be given a reasonable opportunity to be present.

Automobiles -- School officials may search selected vehicles while on school property when there is plain view evidence or reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle contains articles that may endanger other individuals or are contrary to law or regulations or policies of the school and/or Board.

Law Enforcement Officials

School officials will cooperate with law enforcement officials in their effort to enforce the law; however, school officials will not permit warrantless searches of students by law enforcement officials on school property.

SOURCE: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL
ADOPTED: Nov. 5, 1978; REVISED: Jun. 16, 1994; REVISED: May 21, 2009
LEGAL REF.: U.S. Const. Amend. IV; U.S. Const. Amend. XIV 1.