

Holbrook Public Schools

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

School administrators have the responsibility for maintaining a safe school environment so that students and staff may focus on learning.

School administrators have the authority to follow procedures and guidelines when it is determined that a threat to the safe school environment exists.

The freedom from an illegal search of one's person is guaranteed to students by the Fourth Amendment and cannot be violated by the schools. However, school lockers and desks, assigned to students for their use, remain the property of the Holbrook Public Schools and students should, therefore, have no expectation of privacy in these areas. Such areas may be subject to canine searches and random searches by school officials.

In order to maintain and preserve a proper educational environment, a school administrator may search a student and a student's personal belongings and personal effects, such as a book bag, sports equipment bag, lunch boxes, etc., based on a reasonable suspicion that a student possesses a dangerous weapon, contraband, drugs, or other items possessed in violation of law and or school policy at the school, a school sponsored event, or athletic event. Searches of a student or his/her automobile will be conducted by school officials in a way that protects the student's rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process. In the event of a search of a student or his/her belongings, parents will be notified as soon as practicable after the search has been concluded.

Any illegal, dangerous, or unauthorized articles discovered will be taken into custody and may be turned over to law enforcement officials. In addition, any student who refuses to submit to a proper and lawful search or who is found in possession of prohibited articles or items will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

SOURCE: MASC

Adopted: November 14, 2007