

Search and Seizure

Section A - Search and Seizure

In order 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 resource police officers.

Section B - 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, parking lots, and other school property and equipment, etc.), 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. School authorities 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, or other violation of the law or the District's policies or rules, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

Section C - Students

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects or property in the student's possession, including but not limited to purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, food containers, and electronic devices (such as personal computers, tablets, and any cellular device, etc.), including a vehicle which the student brings on to school grounds, 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 policies or rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related in scope to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and gender, and the nature of the infraction.

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

1. Outside the view of others, including students,
2. In the presence of a school administrator or adult witness, and
3. By a certificated employee or liaison police officer of the same gender as the student. Immediately following a search, a written report shall be made by the school authority who conducted the search, and given to the principal or designee.

Section D - Seizure of Property

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

Section E - 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. 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.

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