

Board of Trustees
Douglas County School District

STUDENTS

STUDENT SEARCHES AND SEIZURE

School personnel are charged with the responsibility of protecting the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In support of that responsibility, Douglas County School District administrators may, after having reasonable suspicion of the presence of an object or substance on a student or in a student's possessions which is illegal or poses a hazard to the safety and good order of the school, conduct a search of the student and/or his or her possessions as a part of a thorough and complete investigation.

The search of a student's person or possessions shall be conducted by a Douglas County School District administrator in the presence of another school employee to serve as a witness to the search.

The search of a student's person shall be limited to exterior clothing and at no time shall a district employee physically contact a student's person.

In addition to the procedures outlined above, school administrators may utilize metal detecting wands to conduct searches of a student's person or possessions when there is reasonable suspicion of the presence of an illegal or hazardous object or substance. The use of metal detecting wands shall be limited to situations where other methods of investigation have proven inconclusive or insufficient.

When using metal detecting wands, the following procedures must be followed:

- The search must be conducted by a Douglas County School District administrator in the presence of another school employee as a witness.
- The student must be informed of the reason for the search and the intended use of the metal detecting wand.
- The wand must be used in a manner that respects the student's privacy and minimizes physical contact.

- If the wand detects a metallic object, the administrator may request the student to remove the item or may conduct a further search as outlined in the existing search policy.

At no time shall the metal detecting wand be used in a manner that causes physical discomfort or harm to the student.

The use of metal detecting wands shall not replace or supersede existing search procedures but may serve as an additional tool for ensuring the safety and well-being of students. In all cases, administrators shall exercise their professional judgment and discretion when determining the necessity and appropriateness of utilizing metal detecting wands.

Adopted: 9/20/2018
Revised: 3/2024