

Student Searches

BPS is committed to maintaining safe orderly schools, to promote health and safety within the school setting, and to provide a school environment conducive to education.

Definitions

This policy defines the following:

- *Personal possessions* include, but are not limited to, a student's vehicle, purse, backpack, bookbag, package(s), and clothing.
- *Reasonable suspicion* means that administration has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of District policy, rules, the law, and/or that the violation may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of District students or staff. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school administrator's personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.

Philosophy

The District retains ownership and control of all lockers and desks. Access to all lockers and desks is a legal right of school officials whose responsibility it is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled. Students shall have no reasonable expectation of privacy when using lockers or desks. Students shall be given advanced notice of this policy through student handbooks or another form of notification.

Lockers and desks may be subject to suspicionless searches, inspections for purposes such as routine maintenance, or searches where there is a reasonable suspicion that lockers or desks contains object(s) and/or substance(s) in violation of District policy, rules, the law, and/or that the violation may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of District students or staff.

Search Procedure

When a locker, desk, or other personal possession is subject to a search, the building administrator or their designee should be accompanied by at least one other school staff member.

Students' personal possessions stored in lockers or desks shall not be searched unless there exists reasonable suspicion that they contain an object(s) or substance(s) in violation of District policy, rules, the law, and/or the violation may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of District students or staff as outlined in Policy FGCB. Searches of personal technology is governed in a separate District policy, FFI. Administrators shall make a reasonable attempt to have students present during searches of personal possessions contained in lockers or desks unless an emergency situation warrants an immediate search or the presence of the student would be inappropriate under the circumstances.

The building administrator or their designee should be notified whenever a search has been conducted. The Superintendent should be notified should items of concern be discovered.

Use of Metal Detector Wands

To combat school violence, the potential presence of weapons in our school, or the potential presence of illegal substances, the District may utilize metal detector wands to detect firearms, knives, other weapons, or illegal drugs (e.g., vape devices).

All students may be subject to screening. Metal detector wand screenings of students and their personal possessions shall be conducted in an orderly and safe manner, and consistent with minimizing intrusion into students' privacy rights.

Use of Trained Dogs and Involvement of Law Enforcement

Trained dogs may be used to smell the outside of a student's locker, desk, or vehicle parked on school property. If the dog detects the possibility of objects and/or substances that are illegal or violate District policy, the building administrator or their designee shall search the locker or desk in accordance with the search procedure above.

The building administrator or their designee may request the assistance of law enforcement to conduct any portion of a school-initiated search of a student's locker, desk, or vehicle parked on school property that would pose a safety threat if conducted by school staff. In all other cases, law enforcement must have probable cause in order to search a student's locker, desk, or vehicle.

Violation

Personal possessions in violation of District policy, rules, the law, and/or that may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of District students or staff will be confiscated until further directed by the Superintendent or law enforcement. Illegal substances found during a search of a student's personal possessions will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

Students in violation of this policy, or any federal/state law, may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the District's student conduct and discipline policy (FF) as determined by the Superintendent or designee, and when appropriate, be referred to law enforcement.

Complementary Documents

- FGA, Student Records
- FGCB Searches of Students and Students' Personal Possessions
- FGCB-E Search and Seizure of Students' Form
- FGCC Student Interviews and Custody by School Resource Officers and Outside Authorities
- FFI Student Responsible Use