

STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHES, AND ARRESTS

All students are entitled to a safe and healthy educational environment. Therefore, the school has the responsibility to protect students from anti-social behavior on the part of irresponsible classmates. Furthermore, school administrators must take preventive and disciplinary measures that are both swift and informal in order to be effective.

The Superintendent, principal, security personnel of the school, or other authorized personnel may detain and search any student or students on the premises of the public schools, or while attending or in transit to or from any event or function sponsored or authorized by the school under the following conditions:

1. When any authorized person has reasonable suspicion that the student may have on the student's person or property alcohol; dangerous weapons; prohibited electronic devices; controlled dangerous substances as defined by law; stolen property if the property in question is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities; or any other items which have been or may reasonably be disruptive of school operations or in violation of student discipline rules and applicable provisions of the student handbook.
2. School lockers and school desks are the property of the school, not the student. Students who use school district lockers, desks, and other storage areas or compartments have no reasonable expectation of privacy from school employees as to the contents of those areas. Lockers, desks, and other storage areas or compartments may be subjected to searches at any time with or without reasonable suspicion. Students are not to use any school area or property to store anything that should not be at school. Students shall not exchange lockers or desks. Students shall not use any lockers or desks other than those assigned to them by the principal or designee. A shared locker or storage area implies shared responsibility.
3. Authorized personnel may conduct a search of the student's person or the student's belongings, as noted above, whenever a student freely and voluntarily consents to such a search. Consent obtained through threats or coercion is not considered to be freely and voluntarily given.
4. Strip searches are forbidden. No clothing except cold weather/outdoor garments and footwear will be requested to be removed before or during a search.
5. Authorized personnel conducting a search shall have authority to detain the student or students and to preserve any contraband seized. Contraband seized during the course of a search will be preserved and held in accordance with applicable administrative rules and procedures.
6. Any searches of students as outlined herein will be conducted by authorized personnel of the same sex as the student being searched. Whenever possible,

two authorized persons shall be present during any search of a student or student property.

7. The Superintendent is authorized to arrange for the use of trained canines to aid in the search process.
8. Items that may be seized during a search, in addition to those mentioned in item 1 above, shall include but not be limited to any item, object, instrument, or material commonly recognized as unlawful or prohibited by law or by district policy. Examples include prescription or non-prescription medicines, switchblade knives, brass knuckles, Billie clubs, and pornographic literature. Such items, or any other items which may pose a threat to a student, the student body, or school personnel shall be seized, identified as to ownership if possible, and held for release to proper authority.

In conducting searches of students and property, school officials should consult with legal counsel and law enforcement authorities to be aware of circumstances when involvement of the police is advisable and/or necessary.

Students recognize that parking their automobiles on school property is a privilege and not a right. As part of this privilege, the District may search a student's automobile while parked on school property if the District has reasonable suspicion that a violation of school rules has occurred. Students consent to having their automobiles searched by parking on school property.

Legal References:

NH Constitution, Pt.1, Art 19

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