

## **Students Searches and Seizure**

The Board is committed to providing students with schools that are free of drugs and weapons. The Board prohibits the presence of drugs, controlled substances, weapons of any type, explosive devices, alcohol, non-authorized medication, or any other intoxicant on District property or at any District sponsored event. This prohibition applies to employees, students, patrons, visitors and any other persons on District property. Notice of this policy shall be provided to all students through the Lakeland Joint School District #272 (LJSD) Student Handbook, and shall be provided to all parents during the registration process.

Order and security in the schools shall be maintained by school authorities. Searches of school property and equipment, and students and their personal effects, are authorized to be conducted based on reasonable suspicion that a search will produce evidence of a violation of district policy, state, or federal law. Searches must be reasonably related to the circumstances, not excessively intrusive, and consideration shall be given to the age and sex of the student along with the nature of the infraction.

All students are responsible for the security of any personal vehicle, assigned locker, desk, bag or other item they possess, are entrusted with, or bring onto District property (including buses) or to a District sponsored event. No student shall possess, place, keep or maintain any article or material that is prohibited by law or District policy in items, lockers, vehicles, desks or bags assigned to them or under their control.

Refusal to cooperate with a search may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, and/or loss of parking privileges on District property for students.

### **School Property, Equipment, and Personal Effects**

For health and safety reasons, a general inspection of school properties, such as lockers and desks, may be conducted at any time or when reasonable suspicion suggests that the search will disclose evidence of illegal possession of contraband or criminal activity.

Building administration, Armed District Safety Specialists (ADSS), or School Resource Officers (SRO) may inspect and search school property and equipment as well as personal effects left by students, without notice or consent of the student.

Lockers are only assigned to one student. In the event a student chooses to share their locker with another student, then the student to whom the locker was assigned shall be responsible for its contents.

All vehicles parked on district property shall be considered in the custody and control of the student driver and subject to search if there is cause to suspect that District policies have been violated.

Building administration may request the assistance of law enforcement and/or law enforcement canines (“canine”) to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment, including buses, for illegal drugs, weapons, and other illegal or dangerous substances or materials.

In conjunction with other District security measures, a canine may be used on District property or at a District sponsored event. A canine alert, which is determined by the canine’s handler, constitutes reasonable suspicion. When a canine alerts, any suspected individual(s) will be called to the scene to witness the inspection of the item or place the canine alerted to.

In the event the canine alerts on a locked vehicle, the owner or person bringing the vehicle onto District property shall be asked to open it for inspection.

### Students

The student’s constitutional rights, as applicable under the specific circumstances, will be protected.

Building administration, ADSSs, and SROs may utilize a breathalyzer in the event there is cause to believe that a student is under the influence of alcohol.

Building administration, ADSSs, and SROs may utilize metal detection wands prior to conducting a physical search of a student. In the event a physical search is necessary, then a physical search shall not be conducted without at least one adult of the student’s biological gender present. Whenever practical, a second adult shall also be present, and efforts will be made to provide a second adult of the student’s biological gender.

### 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, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

### Cross Reference:

[Policy 3330](#) Student Discipline

[Policy 3340](#) Corrective Actions and Punishment

[Policy 3410](#) School Sponsored Student Activities

[Policy 3450](#) Student Vehicle Parking

### Legal Reference:

[Board of Education v. Earls, 536 U.S. 822, 122 S. Ct. 2559 \(2002\)](#); US Supreme Court precedence regarding search and seizures for extracurricular activities.

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 13, 2007

Revised on: Jan 21, 2026