

## STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHS AND SEIZURE

### Desks and School Lockers

Desks and school lockers are property of the schools. The right to inspect desks and lockers assigned to students may be exercised by school officials to safeguard students, their property and school property with reasonable care for the Fourth Amendment rights of students. All principals will announce at the start of the school year that periodic inspections of student desks and lockers may occur.

The exercise of the right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion. An authorized school administrator may search a student's locker or desk under the following conditions.

There is reason to believe that the desk or locker assigned to a student contains contraband material, weapons or other material which could be used to carry out a threat against persons or property.

The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in the school.

At the time that the decision is made to search a desk, locker or other school property or site, access shall be denied to all except authorized school officials.

The principal of the school or his/her designee may not consent to an inspection of student lockers by police officers who are looking for evidence of a crime unless they have a warrant or there is an emergency situation.

### Interrogations and Searches of Students

A student may not be questioned in the school or taken from the school by a law enforcement agent or any other non-school personnel unless the student's parent or legal guardian is contacted and R.I. Gen Law 16-21.5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 are followed.

Before making a student available to law enforcement for the purpose of being questioned, the principal or designee shall contact the parent and the parent shall have the opportunity to be present.

The school is always required to report to the police any activity, including threats to persons or property which may violate the law. In instances where the student exhibited and/or expressed criminal intent to harm someone, was dangerous or caused harm, the school will also seek criminal prosecution.

### Use of Trained Dogs

The District shall use specially trained nonaggressive dogs to sniff out and alert officials to the current presence of concealed prohibited items, illicit substances and alcohol.

Such visits to school shall be unannounced. The dogs shall be used to sniff vacant classrooms,

vacant common areas, the areas around student lockers, and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. The dogs shall not be used with students. If a dog alerts to a locker, a vehicle, or an item in a classroom, it may be searched by school officials.

ADOPTED: October 4, 1993

REVISED: June 15, 2026

LEGAL REFS.:

[RIGL §16-21.5-1](#)

[RIGL §16-21.5-2](#)

[RIGL §16-21.5-3](#)

CROSS REFS.:

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