

Searches and Seizure

For the safety and supervision of students in the absence of parents, to maintain discipline and order in schools, and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, school authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students and their personal effects, as well as District property. Such authorization includes, but is not limited to, the use of canines for searches of school property, personal property and motor vehicles.

Students and Their Personal Effects

A school administrator/designee may search a student and/or the student's personal effects (e.g., purses, book bags, motor vehicles, etc.) when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. When feasible, the search should be conducted outside the view of others, including students, in the presence of an adult witness of the same sex. The parent of the student shall be notified of the search as soon as possible.

School Property

School property, including, but not limited to desks and lockers, is owned and controlled by the District and may be searched by school authorities at any time. School administrators/designees are authorized to conduct area-wide, general administrative inspections of school property without notice to or consent of the student and without reasonable suspicion.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by a school administrator/ designee, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

Legal Reference: *Redding v. Safford Unified School District*, 504 F.3d 828 (9th Cir. 2007)
 Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1, 20 (1968)
 B.C. v. Plumas, 192 F.3d 1260 (9th Cir. 1999)

Policy History:

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