



STUDENTS

Searches of Students and Their Property

A student ~~is subject to~~ and their property may be searched by a principal or principal's designee if there is reasonable grounds suspicion exist to suspect that evidence of a violation of the law or school rules will be uncovered. School staff shall report a student's suspicious activity to the principal or principal's designee prior to initiating a search, except in emergency situations. A search is required when there is reasonable suspicion that a student has a firearm on school grounds, transportation, or at school events.

A. Establishing Reasonable Suspicion Grounds

~~The following review of the basis for the A search should may occur if the principal or principal's designee has reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence of unlawful activity or a violation of a school rule. To determine whether reasonable suspicion exists, consider the following before conducting a search:~~

1. What information is the suspicion based on?
2. Is the information reliable?
3. Is the person who shared the information credible?
4. If a search were conducted what's the likelihood that evidence of unlawful activity or a violation of a school rule would be found?
5. Is the student likely to possess or have concealed any item, material, or substance which is itself prohibited or which would be evidence of a violation of the law or a school rule?

~~A. Identify 1) the student's suspicious conduct, behavior, or activity; 2) the source of the information; and 3) the reliability of the source of such information.~~

~~B. If suspicion could be confirmed, would such conduct be a violation of the law or school rules?~~

~~C. Is the student likely to possess or have concealed any item, material, or substance which is itself prohibited or which would be evidence of a violation of the law or a school rule?~~

B. Conducting the Search

If the principal or principal's designee determines that reasonable grounds suspicion exists to search a student's clothing, personal effects, automobile, or personal container inside of district property such as an assigned desk, locker, assigned or storage area, ~~or automobile~~, the search shall be conducted as follows:

~~A. If evidence of criminal activity is suspected to be present and criminal prosecution will be recommended if criminal activity is confirmed by the search, consult law enforcement officials regarding the appropriateness of a search by a law enforcement officer.~~

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- 1B.** If evidence of **unlawful activity or a** violation of a school rule is suspected, ~~**and if confirmed by the search will be handled solely as a student discipline action,**~~ proceed to search by asking the student to remove all items from pockets, purses, handbags, backpacks, gym bags, etc.
- 2. If the student refuses to cooperate in a personal search, the student should be held until the student's parent or guardian is available to consent to the search. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached in a reasonable time, the principal may conduct the search without the student's consent.**
- 3. The search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction.**
- 4. Do not conduct a strip search or body cavity search of the student.**

Cross reference:

[Board Policy 3231](#)

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