

Questioning and Searches of Students Administrative Procedure

The purpose of this administrative procedure is to provide guidelines for the conduct of student questioning and searches by authorized school administrators. These are guidelines only and may be adjusted within reasonable and lawful limits on a case-by-case basis. School administrators have the discretion to request the assistance of law enforcement authorities, as they deem necessary.

A. Questioning by School Administrators

1. School administrators are under no obligation to notify a student's parents/guardians prior to questioning a student regarding alleged violations of Board policies, school rules and/or federal/state laws.
2. School administrators shall make a reasonable effort to question the student in a location out of sight and hearing of other students.
3. If a student fails to cooperate, lies, misleads or threatens any person during questioning, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action.

B. Searches of Students, Personal Property in Students' Immediate Possession, Student Vehicles and School Storage Facilities.

1. School administrators are authorized to search students, personal property in students' immediate possession, and vehicles when, in their judgment, there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a student possesses any items or substances which are prohibited by law, Board policies and/or school rules, or which interfere with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.
2. All searches of students, personal property or vehicles shall be authorized conducted by a school administrator in the presence of a witness, except where the circumstances render the presence of a witness impractical.
3. Searches should be reasonably related to the objective of the search and not excessively intrusive. Searches may include the student's clothing and personal belongings. School administrators shall conduct strip searches. If a more intrusive search appears to be necessary, law enforcement authorities shall be contacted.
4. School administrators have the authority to inspect and search school storage facilities and their contents on a random basis, with or without reasonable suspicion, and without notice or consent.
5. School administrators shall consult with the Superintendent prior to conducting random searches.

6. Searches, which disclose evidence that a student has violated, Board policies or school rules will be addressed through school disciplinary procedures. Evidence of violation of federal/state laws may result in school disciplinary action and be forwarded to law enforcement authorities for possible investigation/prosecution.
7. If a student fails to cooperate, lies, misleads or threatens any person during a search, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action.
8. School administrators are required to document all searches and any items seized/impounded.

Cross References: JIH Questioning and Searches of Students

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