

STUDENT SEARCHES AND THEIR PROPERTY

The Board seeks to maintain a safe and orderly environment in schools. School administrators may search students in accordance with this policy and accompanying administrative procedure.

Students, their personal property, and their vehicles may be searched upon reasonable suspicion that they possess 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. The Superintendent may authorize a search without individualized suspicion in special circumstances after consultation, if practicable, with legal counsel.

In circumstances involving a credible threat of violence or other imminent safety concern, law enforcement personnel shall be summoned and permitted to conduct searches and interviews as they deem necessary and lawful, which may include canine searches.

Student use of all school storage facilities, including but not limited to lockers, desks, and parking lots, is a privilege granted by the school. All storage facilities are school property and remain under the control, custody, and supervision of the school. Students have no expectation of privacy in school storage facilities or for any items placed in such storage facilities. School administrators have the authority to inspect and search storage facilities and their contents on a random basis, with or without reasonable suspicion, and without notice or consent.

When assigned a locker, desk, or storage area, a student shall be responsible for its proper care. A student may be subject to a fine for any willful damage to school property. Students are not to use any school area or property to contain anything that should not be at school. Students shall not exchange lockers or desks or use any lockers or desks other than those assigned to them by the principal. Students are encouraged to keep their assigned storage area closed and locked.

If a search produces evidence that a student has violated or is violating the law, Board policies, and/or school rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school administrators and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence may be forwarded to law enforcement authorities as required by law or as deemed appropriate by school administrators.

A student who refuses to comply with search directives may be subject to disciplinary action, including the disciplinary consequences for the suspected violation.

School staff, students, and parents shall be informed of this policy on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by school administrators.

Cross References:

Search of Students, JIH-R

Student Behavior Standards, JG-R

Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process, JICD

Life of a Lancer Co-Curricular Code of Conduct, JFCH

Breathalyzer Policy, JFCL

Use of a Breathalyzer, JFCL-R

Legal References:

NH Constitution, Pt.2, Art.19

State v. Drake, 139 N.H. 662 (1995).

RSA 193:13, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD

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