

Policy Subject STUDENT SEARCHES	Location Code 502.6	Adoption Date 7/8/85
	Rescinds/Amends	Adopted

In order to protect and promote the educational environment, an administrator having reason to believe that a student's personal property or assigned school property contains illegal items or items of contraband shall have authority to search such property. Personal or assigned school property shall include, but not limited to, clothing, handbags, book bags, lockers, desks, and automobiles. The search rule applies while students are at a school-sponsored function off of school property. Illegal items or items of contraband found during such a search will not be returned to the student.

Illegal items and items of contraband include, but are not restricted to, drugs, narcotics, alcoholic beverages, behavior-affecting substances, weapons, tobacco, poison and missing or stolen property. These and such other items as they relate to the health, safety and well-being of the school environment are included in this definition and need to be protected against.

The Board recommends that permission be solicited from the student or students for an inspection and the student or students be present. Also, the Board recommends that two members of the staff conduct inspection together, particularly when the student is not present, does not give permission, or is of the opposite sex of the staff member conducting the search.

If upon a reasonable basis for search, illegal items or items of contraband are found, the school administration may take whatever action it deems advisable, including suspension and expulsion. In the instance of property shared by two or more students, care should be given that the innocent student is not wrongly punished.

While the school official's primary goal and intent for a reasonable search is to protect and promote the educational environment and to enforce reasonable school rules, the superintendent may give illegal items or items of contraband to the legal authorities for whatever actions they deem advisable.

In all instances of reasonable searches resulting in the finding of illegal items or items of contraband, the names of the students will not be released to the press or to the general public. Parents of the involved students shall be contacted as soon as possible.