

Searches of Lockers or Desks

The District retains ownership and control of all lockers and desks. Access to all lockers and desks is a legal right of school officials whose responsibility it is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled. Students shall have no reasonable expectation of privacy when using lockers or desks. Student shall be given advanced notice of this policy through student handbooks or another form of notification.

Lockers and desks may be subject to suspicionless searches, inspections for purposes such as routine maintenance, or searches where there is suspicion that lockers or desks contains objects/substances that are illegal, violate school policy, or may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of district students.

Search Procedure

When a locker or desk is subject to a search, the principal/Assistant Principal/Superintendent should be accompanied by at least one other school staff member.

Students' personal items stored in lockers or desks such as, but not limited to, book bags, purses, and coats shall not be searched unless there exists reasonable suspicion that they contain an object(s) or substance(s) in violation of school rules/policy, the law, or which may be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of enrolled students. Administrators shall make a reasonable attempt to have students present during searches of personal items contained in lockers or desks except when an immediate search is necessary in the event of an emergency.

The building principal should be notified whenever a search has been conducted. The Superintendent should be notified should items of concern be discovered.

Use of Trained Dogs and Involvement of Law Enforcement

Trained dogs may be used to smell the outside of students' lockers or desks. If the dog detects the possibility of objects/substances that are illegal or violate school policy, the administrator shall search the locker or desk in accordance with the search procedure above.

In the event a police officer or other law enforcement officer is to conduct a search of a student's locker or desk, probable cause is necessary unless the search is school-initiated and would pose a safety threat if conducted by school staff.

Illegal substances found in lockers or desks may be turned over to proper authorities.