

SEARCH OF STUDENTS

In accordance with policy JIH, searches shall be conducted under the following circumstances:

The Superintendent, principal, teacher, or security personnel of the school (authorized personnel) may detain and search any student or students on the premises of the public schools, or while attending, or while in transit to, any event or function sponsored or authorized by the school under the following conditions:

1. When any authorized person has reasonable suspicion that the student may have on the students' person or property alcohol, dangerous weapons, electronic paging devices, controlled dangerous substances as defined by law, stolen property if the property in question is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities, or any other items which have been or may reasonably be disruptive of school operations or in violation of student discipline rules and applicable provisions of the student handbook.
2. School lockers and school desks are the property of the school, not the student. The users of lockers, desks, and other storage areas or compartments have no reasonable expectation of privacy from school employees as to the contents of those areas. Lockers, desks, and other storage areas, or compartments may be subjected to searches at any time with or without reasonable suspicion. Students are not to use any school area or property to contain any thing 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.
3. Authorized personnel may search a student whenever the student consent to such a search. However, consent obtained through threats or coercion is not considered to be freely and voluntarily given.
4. Authorized personnel conducting a search shall have authority to detain the student or students and to preserve any contraband seized.
5. Any searches of students as outlined herein will be conducted by the authorized person who is the same sex as the person being searched.
6. Strip searches are forbidden. No clothing except cold weather outer garments will be removed before or during a search.
7. Items that may be seized during a lawful search, in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 1 above, shall include, but not be limited to, any item, object, instrument, or material commonly recognized as unlawful or prohibited. For example: prescription or non-prescription medicines, switchblade, knives, brass knuckles, billy clubs, an pornographic literature are commonly recognizable as unlawful or prohibited items. Such items, or any other items which may pose a threat to a student, the student body, or other school personnel, shall be seized, identified as to ownership if possible, and held for release to proper authority.

Statutory References:

Policy JIH

Mrs. Connie Twombly, Chairperson
Mrs. Ann Glidden
Mr. Joseph Fleck
Mrs. Peggy Richards
Mr. Brad Daudelin

Adopted by the Board: 21 March 2001
Reaffirmed by the Board:
Revised by the Board: