



Section J:

Network Policy: JIH

STUDENT INTERVIEWS AND SEARCHES

Office/Custodian – Director of Instruction/Chief of Schools

The Board of Directors seeks to maintain a climate in the schools that is conducive to learning and protects the safety and welfare of staff, students and guests. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary for school personnel upon reasonable suspicion to search the person and/or the personal property of student and to seize any property or contraband deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students, staff and guests.

Definitions

1. "Reasonable suspicion" is the standard for a search on district property or at school activities carried out by school authorities. Reasonable suspicion should be based on facts provided by a credible witness or personal observation which cause the school official to believe, based on their own personal experience, that search of a particular person, place, or thing would lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of Board policy or state laws.
2. "Contraband" consists of all substances or materials prohibited by Board policy or state law, including but not limited to drugs, alcoholic beverages, guns, knives, other weapons, and incendiary devices.

Interviews and Searches by School Administrators

When a violation of Board policy or school rules occurs or is suspected, the Principal or designee may question potential student victims and witnesses without prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. If a school official is investigating a report of child abuse and the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, no contact with the student's family will be made.

School personnel may search a student and/or the student's personal effects while on school premises or during a school activity in accordance with this policy and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials.

Whenever possible, the student shall be informed of the reason(s) for conducting the search and the student's permission to perform the search shall be requested. A student's failure to cooperate with school officials conducting a search shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Legal

C.R.S. 19-2-511 et seq.

C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(I)(I) (policy required as part of safe schools plan)