

5241 – Search

Search

Campbell County School District is fully committed to promoting a safe learning environment and, to the extent possible, eliminating the possession and use of weapons, illegal drugs, and other controlled substances by students on school premises and at school activities. As necessary to protect the health and welfare of students and staff; school officials may search students, their property, and/or district property under their control and may seize unauthorized, illegal, unsafe, or otherwise prohibited items.

Individual Searches

School officials may search any individual student, their property, or district property under the student's control when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, or other rules of the District or the school. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on information that the search will produce evidence related to the alleged violation. The types of student property that may be searched by school officials include, but are not limited to, purses, backpacks, student vehicles parked on district property, cellular phones, or other electronic communication devices.

Any search of a student or their property shall be limited in scope and designed to produce evidence related to the alleged violation. Factors to be considered by school officials when determining the scope of the search shall include the danger to the health or safety of students or staff, such as the possession of weapons, drugs, or other dangerous instruments, and whether the item(s) to be searched by school officials are reasonably related to the contraband to be found. In addition, school officials shall consider the intrusiveness of the search in light of the student's age, gender, and the nature of the alleged violation.

The principal or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of a student subjected to an individualized search as soon as possible after the search.

Vehicles

Search of a student's vehicle while located on school premises will be conducted only if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a breach of school rules or a crime is being committed by the student.

Students may, at their discretion, park their vehicles in appropriate parking spaces located on school district property. Students who elect to utilize parking spaces provided by the school district are advised that the vehicle, when parked on school district property, is personal property which may be subject to a search when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that there may be weapons, contraband, or other illegal or property in violation of school rules located within the automobile. Once the automobile is brought onto school property, the student waives any expectation of privacy regarding the contents of that automobile.

Searches of School Lockers, Desks, and Other Areas.

School lockers, desks, and other storage areas provided for student's use on school premises are school property and remain at all times under the ownership and control of the school. Lockers, desks and storage areas, as well as the contents therein, are subject to inspection at any time, without notice, and without cause at the discretion of the school district. No student shall lock or impede access to any locker or storage areas except with a lock provided and approved by school authorities.

Use of Metal Detectors

The Board believes that the presence of weapons in the schools threatens the District's ability to provide the safe and orderly learning environment to which District students and staff are entitled. The Board also believes that metal detector searches offer a reasonable means to keep weapons out of schools and mitigate the fears of students and staff. The Superintendent or designee may use metal detectors at District schools as necessary to help provide a safe learning environment.

Use of Contraband Detection Dogs

In an effort to keep the school free of illegal substances or contraband, the District may use specially trained dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of substances prohibited by law or District policy. Detection dogs may be used to the extent allowed by law.

Searches by Law Enforcement Officers

Searches conducted by law enforcement officers on school property shall comply with the requirements of applicable law. It is expected that all procedural safeguards prescribed by law are followed by law enforcement officers conducting student searches. However, District personnel are not responsible for any officer's legal compliance when searching a student.

ADOPTION DATE: Adopted May 25, 2010 (Combined Policy 5240, Lockers, and 5242, Search; Revised November 12, 2019

LEGAL REFERENCE(S):

CROSS REFERENCE(S): 5145

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION: