

SEARCHES

The Board believes inspection of student lockers, desks or other school areas and their contents is the responsibility of school administrators and teachers whenever there are articulable facts which lead them to reasonably believe weapons, illegal drugs, or other illegal or harmful items are kept there. Lockers, desks, buildings, or other school areas or grounds may be searched by school administrators and teachers when it is believed illegal items may be found. Such searches shall be conducted in the presence of the student, whenever possible. A student not present shall be informed of the search. Items which are specifically prohibited by law, Board policy, or school regulations may be impounded. Care should be exercised when school administrators anticipate impounding evidence which might be used in a criminal prosecution against the student. The student shall be given a receipt for any items impounded by the school administrators and parents or guardians shall be notified of any items impounded.

Any automobile parked on School Board property by a student may also be searched at any time by school officials who have articulable facts which lead them reasonably to believe that items in violation of School Board policy are contained therein. If the automobile is locked, the student shall unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses to unlock the vehicle, proper law enforcement authorities shall be summoned and the student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Whenever any search is conducted pursuant to this policy, a written record shall be made thereof by the person(s) conducting and shall include the names(s) of the person(s) involved, the circumstances leading to the search and the results of the search. This written and signed record shall be filed and maintained in the principal's office, and a copy shall be sent to the Superintendent.

If it becomes necessary to obtain a search warrant in order to search a student or his property, then the following procedures shall apply:

1. Obtain a search warrant and allow law enforcement officials to conduct the search.
2. Obtain another teacher, principal or administrator as a witness before the search is made.
3. Give the student a receipt for any material detained and keep a duplicate for school records.

Nothing in the above should be construed as preventing the teacher, principal, or administrator from taking immediate action to take whatever reasonable steps necessary to safeguard the health and welfare of all students.

The Board shall in accordance with state law, indemnify and defend employees who follow this policy and subsequently are involved in litigation as a result of compliance.

(Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§18"416. 17"416:3; State v. Stein, 203 Kan 638 456 P.2d (1969); Board minutes, 2-7-83.)