

Search and Seizure**I. LOCKERS AND DESKS**

School administrators are charged with the responsibility of operating the schools in a manner which will safeguard the health, welfare, and safety of students and school personnel. Thus, the school administration may search a locker or desk if the administrator has reasonable grounds to suspect that a search will turn up evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

School lockers and desks are the property of the schools and are provided to students for their convenience. Students are therefore warned not to store items in lockers which they do not want to bring to the attention of school authorities. Students cannot expect their lockers or desks to be free from inspection if the administration considers a search necessary to maintain the integrity of the school environment and to protect other students. The exercise of the right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion.

An authorized school administrator may search a student's locker or desk under the following conditions:

1. There is reason to believe that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school and that the student's desk or locker may contain weapons, contraband material, or evidence of the commission of a crime.
2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety, or health in the school.
3. The student has been notified in advance that school board policy allows desks and lockers to be inspected if the administration has reason to believe that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school and that the student's desk or locker may contain weapons, contraband material, or evidence of the commission of a crime.
4. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the infraction.

A search may be made by a police officer with a valid warrant or in connection with a valid arrest. If police are involved, parents should be notified and the principal or other school officials should be present at the time of the search.

STUDENTS

JFG

Search and Seizure

II. STUDENT SEARCH

School authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students or their property when reasonable suspicion indicates that a particular student is in possession of an item or a substance that is prohibited by school board regulations or by law. Student property shall include, but not be limited to, purses, book bags, gym bags, and cars.

The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

III. NOTIFICATION

Students shall be informed annually that board policy allows student search and school desk and/or locker searches.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221. Boards of education to prescribe rules
PA 94-115. An Act Concerning School Searches
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325; 105 S.Ct.733.

Policy Approved: 04/08/85

Policy Revised: 02/27/95