

STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHES, AND ARRESTS

The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure that discipline is maintained in the schools and that a safe, orderly environment conducive to the educational process is preserved. School officials may conduct reasonable searches of students when, in their judgment, there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the policies or regulations of the school. The search must be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances which precipitated the search and must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the alleged infraction.

The Board authorizes school officials to inspect a student's locker/desk when officials have reason to believe that the locker or desk is improperly used for the storage of any substance or item which is in violation of the law or policies or regulations of the schools. When necessary for the general welfare of the school, searches of all lockers and desks may be conducted by school officials.

Police may enter schools if they have a warrant for arrest or search, or if school officials have invited them. If they have a valid warrant to do so, or if they have "probable cause", the police may search a student or his/her locker. In the absence of a warrant or probable cause of suspicion, police authorities have no right to interview students in the school building or to use school facilities in connection with official police work, nor does the school have any obligation to make students available to the police. If the police wish to speak to a student without a warrant or probable cause of suspicion, they should take the matter up directly with the student's parents.

The school has legal custody of pupils during the school day and during hours of supervised school activities. It is therefore the responsibility of the school administration to assure that the legal rights of students are not violated.

When law enforcement officers have proper cause to question students during the school day, the Principal/designee shall be present. The Principal shall assure that the pupil is told of his/her right to remain silent or speak through counsel, and will protect him/her from coercion or illegal restraint.

An effort shall be made to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student so that these adults may also be present.

If custody/arrest is involved, the Principal shall ensure that all procedural safeguards, as prescribed by law, are observed.

In all instances where police officials wish to interview students to secure information--that is, when probable cause for suspicion in connection with a crime is not evident or when there is no warrant for search or arrest--the police will not be permitted to interview students on school premises.

DATE ADOPTED: JULY 1, 2003