

**Greater Albany SD 8J**  
**Administrative Regulation**

Code: **JFG-AR**  
Adopted: 3/12/01  
Revised: 8/13/07

## **Student Searches**

### **I. Definitions**

- A. “Reasonable suspicion” means sufficient knowledge possessed by the district official at the time the official makes or authorizes the search which would lead a reasonable person to believe that a search of a particular student or place will likely turn up evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule. The official’s knowledge may be based upon relevant past experience of the official, observation by the official and/or credible information from another person.
1. “Past experience” may provide the district official with information relevant to the violation as well as information which enables the official to evaluate the credibility of information from another person.
  2. “Credible information from another person” may include information which the district official reasonably believes to be true provided by another district employee, a student, a law enforcement or other government official or some other person.
- B. “Reasonable in scope” means that the manner and extent of the search are reasonably related to the objectives of the search, limited to the particular student or students most likely to be involved in the infraction and not excessively intrusive in light of the student’s age, sex, maturity and the nature of the infraction. Strip searches are not considered reasonable.

### **II. Routine Inspection of District Property Assigned to Students**

- A. Lockers, desks, district computers and other storage areas provided by the school and assigned to a particular student(s) are the property of the district, remain in the possession of the district and are under the control of the building principal.
- B. Students may use district-owned storage areas for the limited purpose of temporarily keeping items needed for attendance and participation in school instructional and activity programs only. No other purpose is permitted.
- C. Students shall be provided notification that district-owned storage areas assigned to students are subject to routine inspection without prior notice for the following reasons:
1. Ensure that no item which is prohibited on district premises is present;
  2. Ensure maintenance of proper sanitation;
  3. Ensure mechanical condition and safety;
  4. Reclaim overdue library books, texts or other instructional materials, property or equipment belonging to the district.

### **III. Voluntary Consent**

When a district official has reasonable suspicion to believe that evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule is present in a particular district-owned storage area assigned to a student, or the clothing or the personal property of a student, the official has the option of making a search or asking the student to voluntarily provide the evidence sought. Before making a search, the official should ordinarily ask for the student's voluntary consent by requesting the student to empty the contents of the storage area, clothing or personal property. If the student refuses consent, the official may search for the evidence evaluating student and staff safety and the least intrusive search methods. The official may elect to contact the student's parents/guardian<sup>1</sup> or contact law enforcement officials to assist with the search.

### **IV. Emergency/Dangerous Circumstance**

- A. Where a district official has knowledge which would lead a reasonable person to believe that either an emergency or dangerous circumstance exists and that it is necessary to act to protect the safety of any person or property, the official may make a search to the extent necessary to relieve the emergency or dangerous circumstance.
- B. In responding to such an emergency or dangerous circumstance, the actions of the official shall be no more intrusive than necessary.
- C. Due to a history of, and ongoing incidences of, drug and drug paraphernalia use and possession on or in the vicinity of district property, the district has determined that drug-detection dogs will be used to detect contraband on or in district property, including lockers and student vehicles parked on district property. The purpose of these dogs will not be for individualized searches of students, but they will be on school grounds for property searches and student assemblies. The dogs may be stationed at a school entrance or travel across school grounds and all students are on notice that students may come into proximity with such a dog.

### **V. Search for Evidence of a Violation**

- A. A search may be conducted of an individual student, a district-owned storage area assigned to a student or the personal property of a student. Personal property of a student includes, but is not limited to wallets, purses, electronic devices, computer disks, notebooks, lunch boxes/sacks, book bag, backpack or other containers used to carry belongings.

---

<sup>1</sup>As used in this document, the term parent includes legal guardian or person in a parental relationship. The status and duties of a legal guardian are defined in ORS 125.005(4) and 125.300 - 125.325. The determination of whether an individual is acting in a parental relationship, for purposes of determining residency, depends on the evaluation of those factors listed in ORS 419B.373. The determination for other purposes depends on evaluation of those factors and a power of attorney executed pursuant to ORS 109.056. For special education students, parent also includes a surrogate parent, an adult student to whom rights have transferred and foster parent as defined in OAR 581.015-0005(18).

- B. All searches shall be based on reasonable suspicion and shall be reasonable in scope. A “strip search,” requiring a student to remove clothing down to the student’s underwear or including underwear is prohibited by the district.
- C. Searches will generally be conducted by a building administrator or by other school personnel only as authorized by the building administrator. In certain circumstances a building administrator may be assisted by a law enforcement official(s).
- D. The student will generally be permitted to be present during a search of a district-owned storage area assigned to the student or during a search of the student’s personal property. The student’s presence is not required, however.
- E. Search of a student’s clothing will be limited to the student’s “outerwear” only.<sup>1</sup> A search of the clothing may include the search of a container inside the clothing.  
  
<sup>1</sup>Examples of outerwear include pants, shirts, socks, shoes, hats, sweaters, coats, jackets or other such outerwear worn by a student.
- F. Searches of a student’s clothing will be conducted by a district official of the same sex as the student whenever possible.
- G. Where the object of the search may be felt by a “pat down” of clothing or personal property, the district official may first pat the clothing or property in an attempt to locate the object before searching inside the clothing or property.
- H. Searches will be conducted in privacy, out of the view of other students, staff and others and in the presence of an adult witness of the same sex as the student, whenever possible.
- I. Any item removed from the student as a result of the above procedures which is not evidence of a violation of a law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule may be returned to the student, as appropriate.

## **VI. Other Searches<sup>1</sup>**

- A. Student vehicles may be parked on district property on the condition that the student and his/her parent(s)/guardians(s)<sup>1</sup> allows the vehicle and its contents, upon reasonable suspicion, to be examined. Additionally, student vehicles on another school district’s property at activities under the jurisdiction of the district, including interscholastic activities sponsored by the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) or other such voluntary organizations approved by the State Board of Education, shall also be subject to such condition.

If a student or parent(s)/guardians<sup>1</sup> refuses to allow access to a vehicle when requested under the circumstances described above, the student's privilege of bringing a vehicle onto district property will be terminated for the remainder of the school year. A refusal will subject the student to discipline up to and including expulsion and law enforcement officials may be notified.

- B. Metal detectors, including walk-through and hand-held devices, may be used when the superintendent determines that there is a need for such detectors based upon reasonable information of a history of:
  - 1. Weapons or dangerous objects found at school, on district property, at a school function or in the vicinity of the school; or
  - 2. Incidents of violence involving weapons at a school, on district property, at a school function or in the vicinity of the school.

Upon positive detection, a student should ordinarily be asked to voluntarily remove the metal item. The district official may search the clothing or personal property of the student for the item if the student refuses consent or if the positive metal detection is not satisfactorily explained.

- C. Drug-detection dogs may be used when the superintendent determines that there is a need for use of such dogs based upon reasonable information of a history of:
  - 1. Drugs and/or drug paraphernalia use/possession at school, on district property, at a school function or in the vicinity of the school; or
  - 2. Incidents of violence or health emergencies involving drugs and/or drug paraphernalia at a school, on district property, at a school function or in the vicinity of the school.

After such need has been determined, drug-detection dogs may be used to sniff out contraband in district-owned storage areas or in student vehicles parked on district property upon reasonable suspicion to believe that contraband is in the area or vehicle.

- D. Body fluid searches of students for the presence of alcohol or drugs are prohibited by the district unless specifically authorized by the Board as part of its athlete drug-testing program.

## **VII. Discipline**

- A. Possession or use of unauthorized, illegal or unsafe materials will result in the following:
  - 1. Seizure of the material:
    - a. Property, the possession of which is a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule will be returned to the parent or guardian<sup>1</sup>

- or, if also a violation of law, turned over to law enforcement officials or destroyed by the district as deemed appropriate by the building principal;
  - b. Stolen property will be returned to its rightful owner;
  - c. Unclaimed property may be disposed of in accordance with Board policy DN, Disposal of District Property.
2. Discipline up to and including expulsion and notification of law enforcement officials as appropriate or as otherwise required by law or Board policy.
- B. Any incident involving discipline of a student as a result of a routine inspection of district storage areas made available for student use or other searches of a student or the student's personal property will be documented as required below.

### **VIII. Notice**

- A. Notice of the Board's policy and pertinent provisions of this regulation will be provided to staff, students and their parent(s) or guardian(s)<sup>1</sup> annually, through such means as staff and student/parent handbooks.

### **IX. Cooperation with Law Enforcement Officials**

- A. Building administrators will meet with law enforcement officials to review:
- 1. Official contact protocols;
  - 2. Applicable Board policies and administrative regulations;
  - 3. Circumstances in which the district will generally be requesting local law enforcement involvement in suspected crimes;
  - 4. Handling of searches and evidence of suspected crimes when involving law enforcement officials.