

Student Searches and Questioning**

Searches

The Board seeks to assure a climate in the schools which is appropriate for institutions of learning and which assures the safety and welfare of personnel and students. To assist the Board in attaining these goals, district officials may search the person and the personal property, including that property or facility provided by the school and seize any property deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students and personnel if school officials have reason to believe that an illegal act or a violation of law, district policy or school rules and regulations is being committed or is about to be committed.

The procedures for implementation of this policy are intended to assure that the rights of the individual are balanced with the larger needs of the school to provide a safe learning environment.

1. Students may be interviewed by school officials at any time an investigation is being conducted into possible misconduct.
2. The building principal or his/her designee will lead all student investigations and determine how best to conduct student questioning. In cases of physical or bodily threat to students or staff, the building principal will advise the superintendent and jointly determine if law enforcement or other consultants are needed to help with the investigation;
3. When possible, a female staff member will be present during questioning of female students regarding urgent matters that could result in suspension or expulsion;
4. The building principal will determine if parents are needed during in an interview and communicate with parents in a timely manner regarding serious investigation questioning. Serious investigations are defined as those involving matters that could lead to possible suspension or expulsion consequence. In emergency situations, the building principal will contact the parents as soon as practical;
5. Parents will always be contacted by the principal immediately after questioning if the investigation leads to disciplinary action decision and/or results in a referral to law enforcement.
6. A search of a student's person may be conducted where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the particular student is concealing evidence of an illegal act or school violation.
7. Illegal items (firearms, weapons, narcotics, etc.) or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others may be seized by school officials and turned over to the proper authorities.

8. Items which may be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from the student's possession.
9. General search of school properties including but not limited to lockers or desks may occur at any time and items belonging to the school or which are unlawful may be seized. Students will be notified that searches of school property have occurred and will be notified of any items seized.
10. At the time school equipment is assigned to students for their use, students will be informed of conditions for the use of such equipment and of the intent of school personnel to conduct routine searches.

Questioning

When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or designee will be present when possible. An effort will be made to contact the parent so that the responsible adult may be notified of the situation.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050 to -0075](#)

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985).

Cross Reference:

KN - Relations with Government Agencies