



Student Searches**

1. Definitions

- a. “Reasonable suspicion” is based upon specific and articulated facts to believe that the student personally poses or is in possession of some item that poses a risk of immediate and serious harm to the student, school officials and/or others at school. 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 ESD 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 ESD 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, the unique features of the official’s responsibilities and limited to the particular student or students most likely to be involved in the infraction and the area(s) which could contain the item(s) sought, and not excessively intrusive in light of the student’s age, sex, maturity and the nature of the infraction.

2. Routine Inspection of ESD Property Assigned to Students

- a. Lockers, desks and other storage areas provided by the ESD and assigned to a particular student(s) are the property of the ESD, remain in the possession of the ESD and are under the control of the Superintendent. Students have no expectation of privacy regarding these items/areas.
- b. Students may use ESD-owned storage areas for the limited purpose of temporarily keeping items needed for attendance and participation in ESD programs only. No other purpose is permitted.
- c. Students shall be provided notification that ESD-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 ESD 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 ESD.

3. Voluntary Consent

When the ESD official has the requisite justification to search either a particular ESD-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 item(s) 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 for his/her personal property, the official may elect to contact the students' parents to obtain consent for the search of personal property.

4. Search Procedures

- a. With the requisite justification, a school official may search an individual student, an ESD-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, lunch boxes/sacks, book bag, backpack or other containers used to carry belongings.
- b. All searches of a student or a student's personal property shall be based on the required reasonable suspicion/risk, of immediate and serious harm 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 ESD.
- c. Searches will generally be conducted by an administrator. In certain circumstances an administrator may be assisted by a law enforcement official(s).
- d. The student will generally be permitted to be present during a search of an ESD-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 "outer clothing" only. "Outer clothing" means the student's coat, jacket or other such outerwear garments worn by a student. A search of the clothing may include the search of a container inside the clothing, provided that the container is of a size and shape to hold the object of the search.
- f. Searches of a student's outer clothing will be conducted by an ESD official of the same sex as the student.
- g. Where the object of the search may be felt by a "pat down" of clothing or personal property, the ESD 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.
- 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 rule may be returned to the student, as appropriate.

5. Other Searches

- a. Student vehicles may be parked on ESD property on the condition that the student and his/her parent(s) allows the vehicle and its contents, upon reasonable suspicion/risk of immediate serious harm, to be examined.

If a student or parent(s) refuses to allow access to a vehicle when requested under the circumstances described above, the student's privilege of bringing a vehicle onto ESD property will be terminated for up to one year. 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 on ESD property, at an ESD function or in the vicinity of the ESD; or
- (2) Incidents of violence involving weapons on ESD property, at an ESD function or in the vicinity of the ESD.

Upon positive detection, a student will be asked to voluntarily remove the metal item. If the student refuses consent, the student will be held (will not be allowed further entrance into the building) and any personal property will be seized and secured while the parent(s) and law enforcement officials are summoned.

- 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 on ESD property, at an ESD function or in the vicinity of the ESD; or
- (2) Incidents of violence or health emergencies involving drugs and/or drug paraphernalia on ESD property, at an ESD function or in the vicinity of the ESD.

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

Drug-detection dogs will not be used for general or "dragnet" searches.

- d. Body fluid searches of students for the presence of alcohol or drugs are prohibited.
- e. The ESD may deploy breathalyzer devices at extracurricular events and activities. Students may be subject to testing procedures as a prerequisite to attending the event/activity. If a student refuses testing, he/she will be detained and parents will be contacted to come and take the student home.

6. Discipline

- a. Possession or use of unauthorized, illegal, unhealthy 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 rule will be returned to the parent or, if also a violation

of law, turned over to law enforcement officials or destroyed by the ESD as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent;

- (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 ESD Property.

- (2) Discipline up to an including expulsion and notification of law enforcement officials as appropriate or as otherwise required by law or Board policy.

7. Documentation

- a. Administrators shall document all searches.
- b. Documentation shall consist of the following:
 - (1) Name, age and sex of student;
 - (2) Time and location of search;
 - (3) Justification for search and nature of the reasonable suspicion/risk of immediate and serious harm;
 - (4) Description of the object(s) of the search;
 - (5) Type/Scope of search (areas/items searched);
 - (6) Results of search, prohibited material(s) found, disposition of the material(s) seized and discipline imposed;
 - (7) Name of the witness to the search;
 - (8) Name of the ESD official conducting the search;
 - (9) Contacts with law enforcement and name/position of the contact(s).
- c. Documentation will be maintained as a part of the student's education records and retained in accordance with applicable Oregon Administrative Rules governing records' retention.

8. Notice

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

9. Cooperation with Law Enforcement Officials

Administrators will meet with law enforcement officials, as required, to review:

- a. Official contact protocols;
- b. Applicable Board policies and administrative regulations;
- c. Circumstances in which the ESD will generally be requesting local law enforcement involvement in student searches and suspected crimes;
- d. Handling of searches and evidence when involving law enforcement officials.