

Student Searches and Inspections**

The Board seeks to assure a climate in the district which is appropriate for learning and which assures the safety and welfare of students and staff. To assist the Board in obtaining these goals, district officials are authorized to search a student's person and property, including property assigned by the district for the student's use. Such searches may be conducted at any time on district property or when the student is under the jurisdiction of the district at school-sponsored activities.

All student searches conducted by the district shall be subject to the following requirements:

1. The district official conducting the search shall have individualized, "reasonable suspicion" based upon specific and articulated facts to believe that the student personally poses or is in possession of some item that poses an immediate risk or serious harm to the student, school officials and/or others at the school;
2. The search shall be "reasonable in scope." That is, the measures used are reasonably related to the objectives of the search, the unique features of the official's responsibilities, and the area(s) which could contain the item(s) sought and not excessively intrusive in light of the age, sex, maturity of the student and nature of the infraction.

Whenever feasible, the student should be present when his/her property or district property which he/she used is being searched.

District officials may seize any item which is deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of the students and staff, or is evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule, or which the possession or use of is prohibited by such law, policy, regulation or rule.

To further protect students and provide a safer school environment, random inspections of lockers and other student storage areas may also occur at any time. These areas remain in the possession and control of the school when they are assigned for student use. Students may use student storage areas for the limited purpose of temporarily keeping items needed for classes and other school activities.

Students shall expect that lockers and other student storage areas will be inspected by the school from time to time without prior notice to assure that such areas are not being used for any unauthorized purpose. Prohibited items will be removed and held by the school and/or turned over to appropriate authorities in a timely manner. Any items removed during an inspection will be returned to the student, the student's parents or held for the police as necessary. Students will be disciplined if any prohibited items are found.

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).

State ex. rel. Juv. Dept. v. M.A.D., 233 P3d. 437, 348 Or. 381 (2010).

State v. B.A.H., 263 P3d. 1046, 245 Or. App. 203 (2011).

State v. A.J.C., 326 P3d. 1195, 355 Or. 552 (2014).