

4.30.040-P Search And Seizure

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe school environment while respecting the privacy rights of students. The purpose of this policy is to preserve and foster a safe, non-disruptive educational environment for effective teaching and learning, to maintain a safe school climate, and to achieve these objectives consistent with the law.

The Board recognizes that each student shall have the right to privacy at school with respect to each individual person, which is also accorded to public school students by law. To protect the educational climate and the health and safety of students and staff, school officials are empowered to conduct searches of students and student property when the school official has a reasonable suspicion that there has been a violation of a law, District policy or school rule or policy, and the official has a reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence of that wrongdoing.

Reasonable suspicion may include, but is not limited to, eyewitness observations of school personnel; information from a source deemed reliable; suspicious behavior; recognizable smell of alcohol, tobacco or marijuana; or other unusual behavior.

A school official may conduct a search during the school day and during all school-sponsored activities such as athletic events or concerts, whether on or off school property. In conducting a search of a student or student property, a school official shall take reasonable steps to preserve student privacy and dignity whenever possible and encourage student cooperation in any search.

The School District provides students with storage areas, such as lockers, desks and similar areas and also provides students certain technology, software and internet access (collectively, "District Property"). Students do not have an expectation of the District's policy regarding search and seizure in readily-available materials, such as the Student Handbook [insert link].

