

SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEARCH AND SEIZURE REGULATION

I. Searches, in General

- A. Reasonable Suspicion: A search of a student will be justified when there are reasonable grounds for the suspicion that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or school policy or rules.

Reasonable suspicion may be formed by considering factors such as the following:

1. eyewitness observations by employee(s);
2. information received from reliable sources;
3. suspicious behavior by the student; or,
4. the student's past history and school record although this factor alone is not sufficient to provide the basis for a reasonable suspicion.

- B. Reasonable Scope: The scope of a search will be reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Reasonableness of scope or intrusiveness may be determined based on factors such as the following:

1. the age of the student;
2. the gender of the student;
3. the nature of the suspected infraction; and
4. the urgency requiring the search without delay.

II. Types of Searches

A. Personal Searches

1. A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, backpack, etc.) may be searched when a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe the student is in possession of illegal or contraband items or has violated Board policies, school rules or the law.
2. Personal intrusive searches will require more compelling circumstances to be considered reasonable.
 - a. Pat-Down Search: If a pat-down search or a search of a student's garments (such as jackets, socks, pockets, etc.) is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same gender as the student and with another adult witness of the same gender present, when feasible.
 - b. A more intrusive search, short of a strip search, of the student's person is permissible in emergency situations when the health and safety of

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- c. students, employees or visitors are threatened. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same gender as the student, with an adult of the same gender present unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which may be caused by following these procedures.
- d. Pursuant to the Code of Iowa, it is recognized that strip searches, body cavity searches and the use of a drug-sniffing animal to search a student's body are not to be permitted.

B. Locker Searches

The administration, with or without the use of criminal detection canine teams, reserves the right to periodically inspect lockers. The lockers can be searched at any time and without advanced notice. Such searches should be conducted in the presence of another adult witness. The student does not need to be present when a search is being conducted.

- C. Automobile Searches: Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lots. The interior of a student's automobile on the school premises may be searched if the school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized or contraband items are contained inside.

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