

Students

AR 5145.12(a)

SEARCH AND SEIZURE**Student Lockers and Desks**

Because lockers and desks are under the joint control of the student and the district, school officials shall have the right and ability to open and inspect any school locker or desk without student permission when they have reasonable suspicion that the search will disclose evidence of illegal possessions or activity or when odors, smoke, fire and/or other threats to student health, welfare or safety emanate from the locker or desk. (The above language will sunset June 30, 1998. The following language shall become effective September 1, 1998.)

Because lockers and desks are the property of the district, students will be asked to sign consent forms at the beginning of the school year, authorizing district officials to open and examine the contents of a student's locker or desk at any time. These searches will be conducted in order to promote student health, welfare or safety.

Any items contained in a locker or desk shall be considered to be the property of the student to whom the locker or desk is assigned. Notice of this policy shall be given to all students when lockers and desks are assigned.

In an effort to keep the schools free of drugs and weapons, the district may use specially trained non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of substances prohibited by law or district policy. The dogs may sniff the air around lockers, desks, bags, items or vehicles on district property or at district-sponsored events as long as they are not allowed to sniff any person. Items shall not be sniffed if a person is close by. Reasonable suspicion is not required prior to allowing the dog to sniff around a locker, desk, etc. provided that appropriate techniques to provide for random selection of the locker or object to be sniffed are employed.

The above inspections shall be unannounced and may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

Use of Trained Dogs

Dogs shall not be used in rooms occupied by persons except for demonstration purposes, with the handler present. When used for demonstration purposes, the dog may not sniff the person of any individual and shall be well separated from the audience.

Only the dogs official handler will determine what constitutes an alert by the dog. If the dog alerts on a desk or locker, the desk or locker will be searched. If the dog alerts on an item belonging to a student, the student will be asked to consent to a search of the item. If the student refuses to consent to the search, the district will determine whether there is an individualized reasonable suspicion for searching the item.

Students

AR 5145.12(b)

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Individual Searches

In determining whether reasonable suspicion exists, school officials shall consider:

1. The student's age and previous behavior patterns.
2. The prevalence and seriousness in the school of the problem to which the search was directed.
3. The urgency requiring the search without delay.
4. The substantive value and reliability of the information used as a justification for the search.
5. The location of the student at the time of the incident which gave rise to reasonable suspicion.

Searches shall be made in the presence of a least one other district employee. Employees will not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches.

Regulation
reviewed: January 20, 1998

CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Culver City, California