

Policy JFG: SEARCHES OF STUDENTS

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/12/2004 | **Last Revised Date:** 2/13/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 2/13/2024

To maintain a safe learning environment and properly investigate potential misconduct, district personnel may search student property and district property used by students. In some limited situations, the district may require students to undergo drug and/or alcohol testing. All searches will be conducted professionally and in accordance with law. The superintendent or designee is directed to provide staff with appropriate training and is authorized to contact the district's attorney for advice prior to conducting any search.

Searches by District Personnel

Searches of District Property

Students do not have an expectation of privacy in district-provided property. Lockers, desks, technology, and other district property are provided for the convenience of students and are subject to periodic inspection in accordance with law.

Searches of Student Property

Student property, including vehicles parked on district property, may be searched based on reasonable suspicion of a violation of law, district policy, or other rules applicable to students. Reasonable suspicion must be based on facts known to the administration, credible information, or reasonable inference drawn from such facts or information. Searches of student property shall be limited in scope based on the original justification for the search and shall be carried out in the presence of adult witnesses when possible. Students' privacy and dignity shall be respected.

Searches of Students

If reasonable under the circumstances, district administrators performing a search may require students to empty pockets or remove jackets, coats, shoes, and other articles of exterior clothing that when removed do not expose undergarments not otherwise observable.

District administrators will contact law enforcement officials to perform a search if they reasonably suspect that a student is concealing controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, weapons, stolen goods, or evidence of a crime beneath their clothing and the student refuses to surrender such items. District administrators may contact law enforcement officials for assistance in performing a search in any case in which a student refuses to allow a search or in which the search cannot be conducted safely.

District employees, administrators, and volunteers, other than commissioned law enforcement officials, shall not strip search students, as defined in state law, except that an administrator may conduct such a search if a commissioned law enforcement officer is not immediately available and the administrator has reason to believe that the student possesses a weapon, explosive, or substance that poses an imminent threat of physical harm to the student or others.

If a student is strip searched, as defined in state law, by an administrator or a commissioned law enforcement

officer, the district will attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible. For the purposes of this section, the term "strip search" shall not include the removal of clothing in order to investigate the potential abuse or neglect of a student, give medical attention to a student, or screen a student for medical conditions.

Drug-Detection Dogs

The district may arrange for law enforcement officials to use professionally trained dogs to detect the presence of drugs on district property. A drug-detection dog alerting to the presence of drugs will constitute reasonable suspicion for district administrators to conduct a search. Drug-detection dogs will not come into direct contact with students. The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the use of drug-detection dogs.

Student Drug and Alcohol Testing

If district personnel have reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the district may require the student to take a drug or alcohol test. Students who refuse to participate in drug or alcohol testing may be disciplined as if they tested positive for the substance. Drug and alcohol testing are not a necessary or exclusive means of determining from the available evidence that a violation of district policy has occurred.

In accordance with law, the district may implement a random student drug-testing program for students in extracurricular activities.

School Resource Officers

A school resource officer (SRO) may accompany district officials executing a search or may perform searches under the direction of district officials based on the reasonable suspicion standard. However, the SRO may choose not to participate in the search if the SRO believes that such participation might interfere with the successful future criminal prosecution of the student.

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
§167.166, RSMo	State Statute
§210.145, RSMo.	State Statute
§544.193, RSMo.	State Statute

MO COURT	Burlisonv. Springfield Pub. Schs., 708 F3d 1034 (2013)
Mo. Const. art. XIV §§ 1-2	State Statute
Federal	Description
21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 844, 860	Federal Statute
FEDERAL COURT	New Jersey vs. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
U.S. Const. amend. IV	U.S. Constitution

Cross References

Code	Description
ECD	TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONTROLS
ECG	ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY
EHB	TECHNOLOGY USAGE
EHB-AP(1)	TECHNOLOGY USAGE - (Technology Safety)
EHB-AP(2)	TECHNOLOGY USAGE - (Access to Blocked or Filtered Content)
GBCB	STAFF CONDUCT
GCPD	SUSPENSION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS
GDPD	SUSPENSION OF SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
KNAJ	RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES