

## **BP 5145.12 SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

The School Board is committed to maintaining an environment for students and staff which is safe and conducive to learning and working. The Board recognizes that incidents may occur where the health, safety and welfare of students and staff are jeopardized and which necessitate the search and seizure of students, their property, or their lockers by school officials.

(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)

The Board authorizes school officials to conduct searches when there are reasonable grounds or suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or the rules of the district or the school.

In determining whether reasonable cause for a search 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.

The Board urges that discretion, good judgment and common sense be exercised in all cases of search and seizure. Before searching a student's possessions, school officials will seek, but need not receive, the freely offered consent of the student. Whenever reasonably possible, a search of a student's person shall be conducted in the presence of the student's parent/guardian, a staff member, and/or the principal. The parent/guardian of the student being searched shall be notified by the district as soon after the search as possible.

The use of drug-detection dogs and metal detectors, or similar detection devices, may be used upon express authorization of the Board/Superintendent.

Because lockers 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 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.

For health and safety reasons, a general inspection of school properties such as lockers and desks may be conducted on a regular, announced basis. Any items contained in a locker shall be considered to be the property of the student to whom the locker was assigned. Notice of this policy shall be given to all students when lockers are assigned. Notice will also be posted in prominent locations throughout the school.

(cf. 5131.6 - Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments) Legal Reference:

*ALASKA STATUTES*

*14.03.105 Search of school lockers*

*ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE*

*4 AAC 07.010 - 4 AAC 07.900 Student rights and responsibilities*

*New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)*

*Revised 9/99*

**9/92**

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