

## QUESTIONING AND SEARCHES OF STUDENTS

The School Committee seeks to maintain a safe and orderly environment in the schools. School administrators may question and/or search students in accordance with this policy and accompanying administrative procedure.

Students, their personal property, and their vehicles may be searched upon reasonable suspicion that they possess any items or substances which are prohibited by law, Board policies and/or school rules, or which interfere with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

When special circumstances exist, including but not limited to a suspected ongoing violation of the Board's drug/alcohol or weapons policies, or when a potential threat to safety is identified, school administrators may search groups of students or the entire student body without individualized suspicion. Students and their personal property may also be searched as a condition of participating in field trips and other school-sponsored activities off school grounds.

Student use of all school storage facilities, including but not limited to lockers, desks, and parking lots, is a privilege granted by the school. All storage facilities are school property and remain under the control, custody, and supervision of the school. Students have no expectation of privacy in school storage facilities or for any items placed in such storage facilities. School administrators have the authority to inspect and search storage facilities and their contents on a random basis, with or without reasonable suspicion, and without notice or consent.

The Superintendent may authorize the use of canine patrols to maintain school safety and to assist in the detection of drugs, weapons or other illicit items. Canine patrols may be utilized on a random basis, with or without reasonable suspicion, and without notice or consent to scan school storage facilities as well as students' personal property (including but not limited to backpacks, purses and athletic bags) and student vehicles brought onto school property.

If a search produces evidence that a student has violated or is violating the law, Board policies and/or school rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school administrators and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence/*contraband* may be forwarded to law enforcement authorities as required by law or as deemed contraband appropriate by school administrators.

A student who refuses to comply with a search directive may be subject to disciplinary action, including the disciplinary consequences for the suspected violation.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement, with input from legal counsel, administrators, and/or other appropriate persons, any administrative procedures necessary to carry out this policy.

This policy and the accompanying procedure will be included in student/parent handbooks.

Cross Reference:     JIH-R - Questioning and Searches of Students  
                          JIH-E – Student Search Checklist  
                          JIH-E1 Canine Search Documentation Form  
                          JICH - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students  
                          JICIA - Weapons, Violence, and School Safety  
                          JK - Student Discipline  
                          KLG - Relations with School Resource Officers and  
                              Law Enforcement Authorities

Adopted: June 11, 2007

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