

Administrative Procedure 326

SEARCH AND SEIZURE: Illicit Use of Drugs and Alcohol

Background

The principal has the right to carry out search and seizure of a student's person and or property in the school, or within the vicinity of the school, based upon reasonable suspicion of theft and possession of prohibited substances and articles.

Procedures

1. Search

- 1.1 The principal or designate is authorized to search school property in order to maintain order, safety, or discipline.
- 1.2 The principal or designate shall have the right and the responsibility to carry out routine administrative searches of lockers and other school property to ensure the safety of the students. Schools need to communicate this to students and parents in the school handbook.
- 1.3 If the principal or designate ascertains that there are reasonable grounds for belief that a criminal offense is being, or has been committed, that a search of the student or property will provide evidence in these matters, or will lead to the conclusion that the commission of a criminal offense has or is about to occur, a search can proceed subject to the following:
 - 1.3.1 The search should proceed immediately if there is reason to believe that the safety of any student is in question.
 - 1.3.2 If the safety of any student is not in question:
 - Attempts should be made to have the student concerned present and consent to the search.
 - Where the student is not present or does not consent to the search or the school officials do not wish to undertake the search under their own authority, school officials are to contact the police and the search proceed under the direction of the police.
 - At least one witness is to be present when a search takes place.
 - All intrusive searches must be conducted by the police.

