

Oak Ridge Schools

Office of the Superintendent



Administrative Procedure 6.303.1

Student Searches

General

Staff have the duty to report to the principal any reasonable suspicion that a student is in possession of or is carrying a dangerous weapon on school grounds or within any school building or is using or in possession of drugs.

The principal has the duty to report any violations to the appropriate law enforcement officer.

Any dangerous weapon or drug discovered by the principal or other staff member in the course of a search shall be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement officer for proper disposal.

SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The school principal shall authorize all searches at the outset per state law.

All principal initiated searches shall be conducted by a school security officer or a school administrator who has completed the state required training. The following conditions apply to principal initiated searches:

1. All the following standards of reasonableness must be met:
 - a. A particular student has violated school policy;
 - b. The search will yield evidence of the violation of school policy or will lead to finding dangerous weapons, drugs, or drug paraphernalia;
 - c. The search is in pursuit of legitimate interests of the school in maintaining order, discipline, safety, supervision, and education;
 - d. The search is not conducted for the sole purpose of discovering evidence to be used in criminal prosecution; and
 - e. The search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive considering the age and sex of the student as well as the nature of the alleged infraction;
2. A school administrator shall be on-site at any principal-initiated search;
3. A school administrator shall oversee the search and may end the search at any time; and
4. If a student is under the age of eighteen (18), the principal must notify the student's parent or guardian within a reasonable time of the search.

SEARCHES OF VEHICLES, LOCKERS, AND ENCLOSURES

A principal may request that a school administrator who has undergone the state required training search vehicles parked on school property, lockers, or other enclosures used for storage by students and other areas accessible to students.

Lockers shall be assigned to each individual student at the beginning of the year. Students are not permitted to change locker assignments unless permission is given by the principal. Students shall be notified at the beginning of the school year that lockers are subject to being searched.

Individual circumstances requiring a search may include incidents on school property, including school buses, involving, but not limited to, the use of dangerous weapons, drugs or drug paraphernalia by students, information received from law enforcement indicating a pattern of drug dealing or drug use by students of

that school, any assault or attempted assault on school property with dangerous weapons, or any other actions or incidents known by the principal that give rise to reasonable suspicion that dangerous weapons, drugs, or drug paraphernalia are on school property.

The principal shall ensure that notice is posted on school campus that vehicles parked on school property, lockers, or other enclosures used for storage by students are subject to being searched.