

Board Policy Document

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Series 500

Policy Title: Student Search Rule/Documentation

Code Number: AR521.20

- I. Searches—Students and Their Personal Belongings
 - A. All searches of students or their personal belongings shall be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances which gave rise to the need for the search and be based upon consideration of relevant factors which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. The nature of the violation for which the search is being instituted
 2. The age(s) and gender(s) of the student(s) who may be searched pursuant to this rule
 3. The objectives to be accomplished by the search
 - B. Principals or their designees may search students and student belongings if both of the following apply:
 1. The official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the law or a school rule or regulation.
 2. The search is conducted in a manner which is reasonably related to the objectives of the search and which is not excessively intrusive in light of the age and gender of the student and the nature of the infraction.

First Adoption: December 12, 1995 1
Revision Adoption: November 26, 2002
Legal Reference: New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325(1985); Cason v. Cook, 810 F. 2d 188 (8th Cir. 1987); Section 808A.3 of the Code of Iowa; U.S.CONST.amend IV; 42 U.S.C. Section 1983

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- C. Strip searches are banned under any and all circumstances.
 - D. A search of a student's belongings may be conducted without the student present; however, if a student is not or will not be present at the time the search is conducted, the student shall be informed of the search either prior to or as soon as is reasonably practicable after the search had been conducted.
 - E. Any contraband material or illegal items discovered during searches of a student or a student's belongings may be confiscated by principals or their designees and may be turned over to law enforcement officials.
- II. Searches—Lockers, Desks, and Other Facilities or Spaces Owned by the School
- A. Principals or their designees may conduct periodic inspections of all, or a randomly selected number of, school lockers, desks, and other facilities or spaces owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to the student.
 - B. At the beginning of each school year, the District shall provide written notice to all students and the student's parent(s), guardian(s), or custodian(s), that school officials may conduct periodic inspections of school lockers, desks, and other facilities or spaces owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to a student without prior notice.
 - C. Any contraband materials or illegal items discovered during searches of school lockers, desks, and other facilities or spaces owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to a student shall be confiscated by principals or their designees and may be turned over to law enforcement officials.
 - D. An inspection of a school locker, desk, or other facility or space owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to a student shall either occur in the presence of the student whose locker is being

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inspected or shall be conducted in the presence of at least one other person.

III. Vehicle Searches

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lots. A student's vehicle on school premises may be searched if principals or their designee feel there is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or contraband items are contained inside the student's automobile.

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ADMINISTRATIVE FORM AND GUIDE

- A. What factors caused you to search this student or the student's effects, locker, or vehicle?

- B. Time of search _____
- C. Location of search _____
- D. Individuals present during search _____
- E. Items discovered during search _____
- F. What was done with any items recovered as a result of the search? _____

- G. Was the student advised of the reason for the search? ___ Yes ___ No
- H. Was the consent of the student requested? _____
- I. Was the student informed of the search either prior to or as soon as was reasonably practicable after the search was conducted? _____

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**RELEASE FORM FOR RELEASE OF STUDENT
TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL**

1. Date _____
2. Time _____
3. Name of student released into custody of law enforcement officials _____

4. Released into custody of _____

Signature of Principal

Signature of Officer