

# SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: SEARCHES

ADOPTED:

REVISED: March 10, 2008

226. SEARCHES	
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The Board recognizes that the maintenance of a safe and orderly educational environment sometimes requires the conduct by school officials of searches within school facilities and of individual students and their belongings and vehicles. The Board further recognizes that such searches should be reasonably related to this objective and reasonable in scope so as not to interfere with students' legitimate expectations of privacy.</p>
<p>2. Authority SC 510 Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p>	<p>The Board authorizes school building administrators and their designees to conduct searches within school facilities and of students and their belongings and vehicles at any time based upon reasonable suspicion that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of school rules or of the law or the presence of any materials that pose a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the school population. Further, to the extent provided in this policy, the Board authorizes the administration to conduct random general searches where such search is justified by a compelling interest in protecting and preserving the health, safety or welfare of the school population.</p>
<p>3. Guidelines  Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p>	<p><u>Personal Searches</u></p> <p>School employees may initiate a search of a student and his/her belongings based upon reasonable suspicion that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of school rules or of the law or the presence of any materials that pose a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the school.</p> <p>Whenever practicable, students first should be given the opportunity to consent to a search.</p> <p>The means and scope of the search of a student or his/her belongings should be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and appropriate to the age and gender of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction.</p>

	<p>Individualized suspicion is not a prerequisite to the conduct of a justifiable search. An identifiable group of students may be subjected to a search whenever school officials have particularized suspicion that a search of those students will reveal evidence of a violation of school rules or of the law or materials that pose a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the school.</p> <p><u>Locker Searches</u></p>
<p>SC 510</p>	<p>It shall be the policy of the Board that all lockers are and shall remain the property of the school district. As such, students shall have no expectation of privacy in their lockers.</p>
	<p>The Board establishes that students should keep their assigned lockers closed and locked against incursion by other students. No student may use a locker as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or district rules, or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p>	<p>The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker at any time, based on reasonable suspicion, for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being used improperly for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal or in violation of school policy, or any material that poses a hazard to the safety and order of the schools.</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p>	<p>The principal or designee shall be present whenever a student locker is inspected. Prior to a locker search, students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. When school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials that pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning and without the student being present.</p>
	<p>The Board authorizes the administration to conduct random searches of lockers at any time.</p>
	<p>The principal shall be responsible for promptly recording in writing each locker inspection; such record shall include the reason(s) for the search, persons present, objects found and their disposition.</p>
<p>Pol. 225</p>	<p>The principal shall open a student's locker for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer only on presentation of a duly authorized search warrant or on the intelligently and voluntarily given account of the student.</p>

<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p><u>Vehicle Searches</u></p> <p>School officials are authorized to search a student’s motor vehicle when parked on school property when there is a reasonable suspicion that the vehicle contains a substance or object that is prohibited by law or school district policy or regulations or that constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare to the school population.</p> <p>Prior to a motor vehicle search, students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. When school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the motor vehicle contains materials that pose an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of others, the motor vehicle may be searched without prior warning and without the student being present.</p> <p><u>Use Of Canines For Searches</u></p> <p>The Board authorizes the administration to periodically arrange with law enforcement agencies or other qualified agencies or individuals to conduct searches on school property using canines trained for the purpose of detecting the presence of drugs, alcohol and illegal substances, subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The building principal or administration designee shall be present while the search is being conducted. The canines must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer who will be responsible for the dog’s actions.</li><li>2. Parent/Guardians and students will be notified of this policy upon its inception and, thereafter, annually by inclusion in the student and/or parent handbook. Notice of the actual date(s) and time(s) of planned searches need not be provided in advance.</li><li>3. Canine searches may involve lockers, bookbags, vehicles and other property brought onto school grounds.</li><li>4. An indication by the canine that contraband is present shall be reasonable cause for further search by school officials.</li></ol> <p>Students and parents/guardians shall be notified at least annually, or more often if deemed appropriate by administration, concerning the contents of this policy.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy.</p>
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	<p>The principal shall be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material in violation of Board policy or school rules that is obtained by a search authorized by this policy.</p>
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