

STUDENTS

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - SEARCH AND SEIZURE

For the safety and supervision of students in the absence of their parent(s) and guardian(s), to maintain discipline and order in schools, and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, school authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students and their personal effects, as well as District property.

Students and Their Personal Effects

School authorities, including the Superintendent and other School District personnel designated by the Superintendent, such as building administrators, teachers, and the police liaison officer may search a student and/or the student's personal effects (e.g., purses, wallets, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner which is reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

- outside the view of others, including students;
- in the presence of a school administrator or adult witness;
- by a licensed employee, administrator, or police liaison officer of the same sex.

Immediately following a search, a report shall be made by the school authority who conducted the search. The report shall be submitted to the Building Principal and forwarded to the Superintendent.

School Property

School authorities may also inspect and search places and areas such as lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment owned or controlled by the District, as well as personal effects left in those places and areas by students, without notice to or the consent of the student, and without a search warrant. As a matter of public policy, the General Assembly of the State of Illinois has found that students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places and areas or in their personal effects left in these places and areas.

The Superintendent or his or her designee may request the assistance of law enforcement officials for the purpose of conducting inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs or technology. Searches conducted by authorized school personnel at the behest of the law enforcement agencies shall be conducted in accordance with the standards applicable to such law enforcement agencies.

STUDENTS

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - SEARCH AND SEIZURE

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law, local ordinance, or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, the District may also turn over such evidence to law enforcement authorities.

Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and their parents/guardians of each of the following in accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/15:

1. School officials may not request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.
2. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

LEGAL REF.: Illinois School Code, Sec. 10-22.10a and 10-22.6 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.10a and 5/10-22.6);
T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 105 S. Ct. 733 (1985);
Cornfield v. Consolidated High School Dist. No. 230, 991 F.2d 1316 (7th Cir. 1993).
105 ILCS 75/15

CROSS REF.: 710.01 and 715.01

Adopted: May 12, 1983
Revised: February 24, 1994
Revised: December 10, 1998
Revised: February 9, 2017