

Students

Search and Seizure

School officials may search individual students and their property when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or the rules of the District or the school. The Board urges that discretion, good judgment and common sense be exercised in all cases of search and seizure. Employees will not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches.

When possible, staff shall use a metal detector when searching an individual for weapons.

The parent/guardian of the student subjected to an individualized search shall be notified by the District as soon after the search as possible.

**Student Lockers**

Because lockers are under the joint control of the student and the District, school officials shall have the right and ability to open and inspect any school locker without student permission when they have reasonable suspicion that the search will disclose evidence of illegal possessions or activity or when odors, smoke, fire and/or other threats to student health, welfare or safety emanate from the locker.

For health and safety reasons, a general inspection of school properties such as lockers and desks may be conducted on a regular, announced basis, with students standing by their lockers or desks. Any items contained in a locker shall be considered to be the property of the student to whom the locker was assigned. Notice of this policy shall be given to all students when lockers are assigned.

**Random Search for Weapons**

The Board finds that the growing presence of weapons in the schools threatens the District's ability to provide the safe and orderly learning environment to which our students and staff are entitled. The Board also finds that random metal detector searches offer a reasonable means to keep weapons out of the schools and mitigate the fears of students and staff.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which ensure that metal detector searches are conducted in a random fashion which excludes individual discretion as to who will be searched. (cf. 3515 - School Safety and Security) (cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs) (cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments) (cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

## **Use of Trained Dogs**

In an effort to keep the schools free of drugs and explosive devices, the District may use specially trained non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of substances prohibited by law or District policy. The dogs may sniff the air around lockers, desks, bags, items or vehicles on District property, vehicles in transit to or from District property or events, or at District-sponsored events as long as they are not allowed to sniff any person. Items shall not be sniffed if a person is close by.

The above inspections shall be unannounced and may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy at the beginning of the school year.

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards  
35160.1 Board authority of school Districts  
35294-35294.5 School safety plans  
49050-49051 Searches by school employees  
49330-49334 Injurious objects

#### PENAL CODE

626.9 Firearms  
626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives or razors, bringing into or possession of within public school ground; exception  
75 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 155 (1992)  
New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325  
Zamora v. Pomeroy (10th Cir. 1981) 639 F.2d 662  
Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School District (5th Cir. 1982) 690 F.2d 470  
O'Connor v. Ortega (1987) 107 S. Ct. 1492

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ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Orange, California