

Unity School District - Board of Education

Board Policy 446.2

~~Use of Trained Dogs to Detect Drugs~~ Use of Drug-Detection Canine Units in Search Activities

Last Revised 12/13/2022

~~In an effort to reduce any instances of illegal drugs in school buildings and on school grounds, the Unity School Board authorizes the use of dogs specially trained in detecting marijuana and other illegal drugs as an aid when conducting locker and other searches on school premises. These random protective searches are deemed beneficial to the ongoing drug prevention effort.~~

~~Canines accompanied by law officials or approved service providers are authorized to sniff lockers, vehicles parked on school property and any other areas of school property deemed appropriate. This activity will be carried out on a random or periodic basis and/or when reasonable suspicion exists. The following specific procedures apply regarding the use of canine units:~~

- ~~1. Canines may be used without prior notification to students and/or school personnel.~~
- ~~2. Canines may be called by the school principal/designee with notification of the district administrator/designee.~~
- ~~3. Use of canines may take place at least once a school year at the high school and middle school. Use of canines may also take place at the elementary school if there is reasonable suspicion.~~
- ~~4. In the event of a canine hit, the locker or other area will be searched further using established district procedures.~~

~~Ref: GBEB - Drug Free Workplace~~

~~_____ KGC - Healthy Environment~~

~~JFCJ - Possession and Use of Dangerous Weapons~~

~~JFC - Student Conduct~~

~~JG - Student Discipline~~

~~JFCH - Student Use of Alcohol/Testing~~

~~JHFD - Vehicle Use by Students~~

In an effort to maintain a drug-free school environment and protect the health and welfare of students and others, the School Board authorizes the use of trained canine units to detect the presence of illegal controlled substances, explosive devices, or other illegal items in school buildings and on school premises. The canines must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer who will be responsible for maintaining control of the canine and interpreting the canine's responses.

Canine units may be used without prior notification to students and/or school personnel. They may be used when:

1. There is a reasonable suspicion that illegal controlled substances may be on school premises but at unknown locations.
2. There is a belief that a random preventive canine search will be beneficial to the ongoing drug prevention efforts of the District.

Canine searches may include, but are not limited to, the exploratory sniffing of the outside of lockers, vehicles parked on school property, or any other areas of school property deemed appropriate by the District Administrator or designee. Canine units may not be used to sniff a student's person, including articles of clothing the student is wearing or a bag while the student is holding it. Students will be restricted to classrooms and kept out of hallways when canine units are in use in school buildings.

In the event that a drug-detection canine unit indicates the possible presence of illegal controlled substances in a locker, vehicle or other location, the area may be searched by school officials in accordance with Board policy and applicable legal requirements.