

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The Board is committed to maintaining an environment for students and staff which is safe and conducive to learning and working. The Board recognizes that incidents may occur where the health, safety and welfare of students and staff are jeopardized and which necessitate the search and seizure of students, their property, or their lockers by school officials.

(cf. 5145.11 – Questioning and Apprehension)

The Board authorizes school officials to conduct searches when there are reasonable grounds that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or school rules.

Before searching a student’s person or possessions, school officials should seek, but need not receive, the consent of the student. Whenever reasonably possible, a search of a student’s person shall be conducted in the presence of the student’s parent/guardian, a staff member, and/or the principal. The parent/guardian of the student being searched shall be notified by the district as soon after the search as possible.

Student Lockers

Lockers are the property of the District. Safety considerations require that lockers remain under the control of the District. Students are not entitled to an expectation of privacy regarding access to, or the contents of, their lockers. 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 a violation of school rules or when a threat to student safety requires a search of a designated area or areas of the school.

For health and safety reasons, general inspections of school properties such as lockers and desks may be conducted from time to time. 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.

(cf. 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)

(cf. 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

*Legal Reference:*ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.105 Search of school lockers

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 07.010 – 4 AAC 07.900 Student rights and responsibilities

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

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