

Unity School District - Board of Education

Board Policy 446.2

Use of ~~Drug-Detection~~ Canine Units ~~on District Property~~ in Search Activities

Last Revised 9/12/2023

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 ~~items 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, ~~Principal~~, or ~~their~~ 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~~ ~~used~~ in school buildings.

In the event that a drug-detection canine unit indicates the possible presence of illegal ~~items 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.