

QUESTIONING AND SEARCHES OF STUDENTS

The Milford School Department School Committee seeks to maintain a safe and orderly environment in the schools. The Superintendent, as well as the building principal, assistant principal and special education director are authorized to question and/or search students in accordance with this policy and accompanying administrative procedures.

Students may not bring, possess or store at school, on school property, or on any school provided transportation any items or substances which are prohibited by law, Committee policies and/or school rules, or which interfere with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

Student use of all school storage facilities, including but not limited to lockers, desks, and parking lots, is a privilege granted by the school. All storage facilities are school property and remain under the control, custody and supervision of the school. Students have no expectation of privacy in school storage facilities or for any items placed in such storage facilities. The superintendent, principal, assistant principal or special education director have the authority to inspect and search storage facilities anywhere in the Dr. Lewis S. Libby School and their contents on a random basis, with or without reasonable suspicion, and without notice or consent. Canine patrols may be used.

Students, their personal property, and their means of conveyance may be searched upon reasonable suspicion that they possess any items or substances which are prohibited by law, Committee policies and/or school rules, or which interfere with the safety, operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

When special circumstances exist, including but not limited to a suspected ongoing violation of the Committee's drug/alcohol or weapons policies, or when a potential threat to safety is identified, school administrators may search groups of students or the entire school body without individual suspicion.

If a search produces evidence that a student has violated or is violating the law, Committee policies and/or school rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by the Superintendent, principal, or assistant principal and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence may be forwarded to, and/or seized by law enforcement authorities as provided by law or as deemed appropriate by the building administrator(s) after conferring with the Superintendent.

A student who refuses to comply with a search directive may be subject to disciplinary action, including the disciplinary consequences for the suspected violation.

School staff, students and parents shall be informed of this policy on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement, with input from legal counsel, administrators, staff and others as appropriate, any administrative procedures necessary to carry out this policy. Such administrative procedures shall be subject to Committee approval.

Adopted: 5-14-12