

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: SCHOOL SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

DATE ADOPTED: February 21, 2012

POLICY STATEMENT

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, student lockers or student automobiles under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

1. **Personal Searches:** A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials.

If a pat down search of a student's person is conducted it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex and with an adult witness present, when feasible.

If extreme emergency conditions require a more intrusive search of a student's person, such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only upon the prior approval of the principal or assistant principal or one of their superiors, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

2. **Locker Searches:** Student lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school; however, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Periodic general inspections of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
3. **Automobile Searches:** Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exteriors of student automobiles on school property. The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. For the purposes of this section, a student vehicle shall mean the vehicle that the student parked on school premises that day.
4. **Seizure of Illegal Materials:** If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Last Adopted: November 3, 1999
 Date Warned: February 3, 2012
 First Reading: February 7, 2012
 Second Reading: July 17, 2018