

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: SCHOOL SEARCH AND SEIZURE

DATE ADOPTED: DRAFT

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, their personal effects, student lockers or student automobiles under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search.

IMPLEMENTATION

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 situation regarding student safety or health requires a more comprehensive search of a student's person, it may be conducted by emergency services such as Colchester Police or Colchester Rescue. Prior approval from the principal or assistant principal is required unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by any delay.

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 in designated student parking areas. 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.
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.
5. **Refusal to Cooperate:** Students who refuse to cooperate with this policy will be deemed to be obstructing an investigation and shall be subject to further disciplinary consequences per the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy: F1.

Last Reviewed: September 5, 2023
Date Warned: February 14, 2025
First Reading: February 18, 2025
Second Reading: February 18, 2025