

Policies of the Board of Education

Section I Students

STUDENT SEARCHES

900.58

In order to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school district personnel, school authorities may search a student or student locker under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search. For purposes of this policy, "school authorities" shall be defined as building administrators, guidance counselors, and/or administrative designee.

As used in this policy, the term "unauthorized" means any item dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disruptive of any lawful function, mission or process of the school, or any item described as unauthorized in school rules available beforehand to the student.

A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Personal Searches

A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, bookbag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials, with an adult witness present, when feasible.

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

If the school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has on his/her person an item imminently dangerous to the student or to others, a more inclusive search of the student's person may be conducted. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school authority of the same sex, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only upon the prior approval of the District Administrator or his/her designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

Locker Searches & Seizure

The Lake Country School provides a locker for convenience of the student to be used solely and exclusively for the storage of outer garments, footwear and school-related materials. No student shall use the locker for any other purpose.

The locker assigned to a student is the property of the Lake Country School District. At no time does the District relinquish its exclusive control of such lockers. A locker may be searched as determined necessary or appropriate without notice, without students consent and without a search warrant. The search may be conducted by the District Administrator, the building Principal, an assistant administrator, a police-school liaison officer or a school employee designated by the District Administrator or Principal. Searches are authorized in the District for the purpose of maintaining order and discipline in the school and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel.

Any illegal contraband, or unauthorized item found in the locker may be removed. Unauthorized material means any item dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel or disruptive of any lawful function, mission or process of the school. Items removed from the locker may be held by the school for return to the parent(s)/guardian of the student or retained for disciplinary proceedings, or turned over to law enforcement officials. The parent/guardian of a minor student shall be notified of items removed from the locker and turned over to law enforcement officials.

The District shall include a copy of this policy in the student handbook that is distributed annually to each student enrolled in the District.

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Cross Ref.: Lake Country Board Policy 900.32

Adopted by School Board November 15, 1993

Revised by School Board April 20, 1999