

## Students

### Search and Seizure

#### Desks and Lockers

Desks and school lockers are property of the schools. the right to inspect desks and lockers assigned to students may be exercised by school officials to safeguard students, their property and school property with reasonable care for the Fourth Amendment rights of students.

An authorized school administrator may search a student's locker or desk under the following conditions:

1. There is reason to believe that the student's desk or locker contains contraband material. Contraband material is material which is illegal and or prohibited by the school.
2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in the school.
3. The student has been informed in advance that school board policy allows desk and lockers to be inspected if the administration has reason to believe that materials injurious to the best interests of students and the school are contained therein.

#### Student Search

A student may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The exercise of the right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules  
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325; 105 S. CT. 733.  
PA-94-115 An Act Concerning School Searches

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