

**Search and Seizure**

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining an environment for students and staff which is safe and conducive to learning and working. The Board recognizes that incidents may occur where the health, safety and welfare of students and staff are jeopardized and which necessitate the search and seizure of students, their property, or their lockers by school officials.

*(cf. 5145.11- Questioning and Apprehension)*

The Board authorizes school officials to conduct searches when there are reasonable grounds or suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or the rules of the district or the school. The Board urges that discretion, good judgment and common sense be exercised in all cases of search and seizure. Searches shall be made in the presence of at least one (1) other district employee.

Employees will not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches. No school employee shall conduct a body cavity search of a student, or any search that involves removing or arranging the student's clothing to permit visual inspection of his/her underclothes, breast, buttocks or genitalia. (Education Code 49050)

The parent/guardian of the student being searched shall be notified by the district as soon after the search as possible.

In determining whether reasonable cause for a search exists, school officials shall consider:

1. The student's age and previous behavior patterns.
2. The prevalence and seriousness in the school of the problem to which the search was directed.
3. The urgency requiring the search without delay.
4. The substantive value and reliability of the information used as a justification for the search.
5. The location of the student at the time of the incident which gave rise to reasonable suspicion.

**Student Lockers**

Because lockers are under the joint control of the student and the district, school officials shall have the right and ability to open and inspect any school locker without student permission when they have reasonable suspicion that the search will disclose evidence of illegal possessions or activity or when odors, smoke, fire and/or other threats to student health, welfare or safety emanate from the locker.

**Search of Vehicles**

**Vehicles driven or parked on school property may be subject to search by school officials without cause where warnings that vehicles are subject to such searches have been posted and are visible.**

**Use of Trained Dogs**

**In an effort to keep the schools free of drugs, the district may use specially trained non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of substances prohibited by law or district policy. The dogs may sniff the air around lockers, desks, bags, items or vehicles on district property or at district-sponsored events as long as they are not allowed to sniff any person.**

**The above inspections shall be unannounced and may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy at the beginning of each school year.**

*(cf. 5131.6 - Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)*

*(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)*

**Legal References:**

Policy  
adopted: January 11, 1994

CORCORAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Search and Seizure**

EDUCATION CODE

49050-49051 Searches by school employees  
35160 Authority of governing boards  
35160.1 Broad authority of school district  
35294-35294.5 School safety plans  
49050-49051 Searches by school employees  
49330-49334 Injurious objects

PENAL CODE

626.9 Firearms  
626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives or razor; bringing into or  
possession of upon or within public school or  
grounds; exception

Vehicle CODE

S21113 Vehicle Search