

## SEARCHES

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school officials may search a student under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, contraband or unauthorized material discovered in the search. Students are subject to searches while on school property, as well as at any school-sponsored activity or event, regardless of its location. All searches shall be conducted by the building administrator, or designee, with a second adult employee present. A student's failure to comply with any search request, as provided by this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

### **Student Searches**

Student lockers and desks are school property and remain at all times under the control of the South Lyon Community Schools; however, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers and desks. Students should not expect privacy for items placed in school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic general searches of lockers and desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason, at any time without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant.

A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, athletic bag) may be searched whenever a school official has reason to suspect that the student is in possession of illegal, contraband or unauthorized materials. If a search yields illegal, contraband, or unauthorized materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Reasonable suspicion that a communication device has been used to violate district policies or administrative guidelines shall be subject to searches, disciplinary action and may result in the communication device being confiscated. (See policy 5136 Use of Electronic Communication Devices)

Only in exceptional circumstances when the health, safety or welfare of the student or of others is immediately threatened, search of a student's person shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender in the presence of another staff member. A search prompted by the reasonable suspicion that health or safety is immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons or property.

Parents/Guardians of students who are searched will be notified that a search has been conducted. Items confiscated during a search may remain in the possession of school personnel, delivered to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition, or returned to the student or the parent/guardian at the discretion of the building administrator.

**Vehicles**

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. South Lyon Community Schools retains its authority to conduct routine patrols of school parking lots and inspections of the exteriors of student vehicles parked on school property. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The interior of student vehicles may be searched whenever a school official has reason to suspect that illegal, contraband or unauthorized materials are contained inside. At the request of a district administrator, the student shall consent to unlocking and opening the vehicle, and permitting the administrator and/or designee to search the vehicle and its contents while parked on school premises. If a search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

**Canine Searches**

The Board also authorizes the use of canines trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement or other appropriately certified entities.

M.C.L.A. 380.1306  
U.S. Constitution, 4th Amendment

*Adopted January 21, 2008  
Revised November 7, 2011*