

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

School Administrators maintain the right to seize items in a student's possession and to search school property (lockers, desks, etc.) assigned to a student and any vehicles parked on school property under the following guidelines:

1. There is a reasonable cause to believe that the items in possession are illegal and/or in violation of school rules, and/or constitute a hazard to health and safety of the students or others.
2. Wareham Public Schools maintains the right to search a student's possession at any time for inspection purposes. This may be done, if possible, in the presence of the student and shall be done under the direction of the School Administrator and whenever possible, in the presence of a second administrator or designee.
3. In case of searches that include a dog team, the officer and dog team will be accompanied by a School Administrator. The contact between dogs and students will be strictly avoided.
4. All searches will be conducted with respect to all safety considerations and with the least disruption, intrusion and intimidation possible.
5. In the event that students are found in possession of an illegal item, the parent or guardian will be notified immediately.

Students who, in the opinion of the School Administrator, may be in possession of, or under the influence of, any controlled substance or may be in possession of any materials dangerous to the student or other students, may be asked to empty their pockets and/or possessions. Examples of items subject to this regulation include, but are not limited to, drugs, alcohol, weapons, pornography, stolen goods, fireworks and explosives.

In keeping with all applicable Federal and Massachusetts State Laws, the law requires that minors cannot be questioned by police without being read their Miranda Rights and without a parent/guardian present.

It is not the intention of the School District to violate individual liberties; however, the obligation of the school is to provide a safe environment conducive to learning for all students.

Reviewed by SCPRSCP December 7, 1995

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 13, 1995 (Drug Search Policy)

Reviewed by SCPRSCP January 8, 1998

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Reviewed by SC April 26, 2017 (no change)

WAREHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS