

Chelsea School District Bylaws & Policies

5771 - SEARCHES OF STUDENTS AND THEIR PROPERTY

Students possess a right of privacy of their person and their property. Students have a right to be free from unreasonable searches of their person and property, and free from unreasonable seizures of their property. These individual rights, however, must be balanced by the school district's responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all its students, faculty and staff.

School authorities will respect a student's right of privacy in their person and their property. However, lockers are the property of the school district and a student's locker or other possessions may be searched in the event reasonable suspicion dictates that the administration takes such action. In addition, students who drive to school and park on school district property agree to have their vehicles searched by administrators who have reasonable suspicion that the student's vehicle contains drugs, weapons, or other items not permissible in school or on school district property.

Drug testing is a form of search. Drug testing may be required of a student if school authorities have individualized and reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is under the influence of drugs. An administrator or other qualified individual will conduct the testing process in accordance with established administrative guidelines.

If a student refuses to submit to drug testing, an inference may be drawn that the student was under the influence of drugs, and discipline, suspension or permanent expulsion may be imposed, as specified by the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, the student may be charged with the offense of insubordination for refusing to take the test.

Reasonable suspicion that a communication device has been used to violate District policies or administrative guidelines shall be subject to disciplinary action and may result in the communication device being confiscated.

The school district's policy on substance abuse (Policy [5530](#)) should be consulted for the definition of the word "drugs" and for school district policies specific to substance abuse.

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

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