

In an effort to maintain a drug-free school environment and protect the health and welfare of students and others, the School Board authorizes the use of trained canine units to detect the presence of illegal controlled substances or explosive devices in school buildings and on school premises. The canines must be accompanied by a qualified and authorized trainer who will be responsible for maintaining control of the canine and interpreting the canine's responses.

Canine units may be used without prior notification to students and/or school personnel. They may be used when:

1. There is a reasonable suspicion that illegal controlled substances or explosives may be on school premises but at unknown locations.
2. There is a belief that a random preventive canine search will be beneficial to the ongoing drug prevention efforts of the District.

Canine searches may include, but are not limited to, the exploratory sniffing of the outside of lockers, vehicles parked on school property, or any other areas of school property deemed appropriate by the District Administrator or designee. Canine units may not be used to sniff a student's person, including articles of clothing the student is wearing or a bag while the student is holding it. Students will be restricted to classrooms and kept out of hallways when canine units are in use in school buildings.

In the event that a drug-detection canine unit indicates the possible presence of illegal controlled substances or explosives in a locker, vehicle or other location, the area may be searched by school officials in accordance with Board policy and applicable legal requirements.

All enrolled students and their parents/guardians will be notified annually of this policy.

Adopted: 10/19/15