

# NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

**SERIES 1000: STUDENTS**

**P1190**

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

School officials are authorized to search school lockers as well as other property available for use by students and to conduct student searches to safeguard students, their property (including student vehicles located on school property) and school property with reasonable care for the rights of such students.

### DESKS AND SCHOOL LOCKERS

Desks and school lockers are the property of the North Branford School System. A school administrator or designee may search a locker or desk when, as of the time of the search, the following conditions are present:

1. There is reason to believe that the student's desk or locker contains contraband material or the fruits of a crime;
2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in the school.
3. The search as actually conducted is reasonably related in scope to the circumstances which justified the search.

In addition, random inspections of students' desks and lockers may be undertaken at such times and places as the administration determines to be reasonable and necessary. Students shall be informed in advance that Board policy permits the random inspection of desks and lockers. A student's receipt of the student handbook, informing him/her of this right, constitutes such notice.

### STUDENT SEARCHES

A student as well as the student's property may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Such a search is justified at its inception if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting such violations. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objective of the search and may not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction. The parents/guardian of any student who is subjected to a student

search shall be notified as soon as feasible following the search.

The right to search requires respect for each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

Searches of desks, school lockers, other school property and students may be conducted by law enforcement personnel only with prior approval of, or at the request of, the school administration.

Legal References:           C.G.S. §54-33n (Search of school lockers and property)  
                                  *New Jersey vs. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325: 105 S.C.T. 733

**Policy Adopted: 12/19/02**