

**REGULATION**

**STUDENT INTERROGATIONS,  
SEARCHES, AND ARRESTS**

**USE OF DOGS IN DRUG SEARCHES**

In any actions undertaken pursuant to the the schools' search and seizure policy, the School District is authorized to use dogs whose reliability and accuracy for sniffing and detecting any illegal or unauthorized substances and objects has been established. The dog will be accompanied by a qualified and authorized dog trainer handler who will be responsible for the dog's actions. An indication by the dog that an illegal or unauthorized substance or object is present on school property or in a vehicle on school property shall be reasonable cause for a search by school officials.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall request the use of drug dogs when the Superintendent or his/her designee believe this type of action is necessary for the safety of the students of the School District. The Superintendent shall appoint administrators of each campus to be in charge of canine searches. Procedures established by the Superintendent and this policy must be followed. The procedures will include but are not limited to the following:

- Selection of search team members;
- Areas to be searched;
- Who will observe the search;
- Action taken if illegal substances are found; and
- Who will notify the authorities.

<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>for</b>
<b>Use of Drug Sniffing Dogs</b>		

**Basis for Use**

In any of the foregoing searches described in these procedures, dogs whose reliability and accuracy has been established may be used according to the following procedures.

No search utilizing such dogs should be conducted except upon the specific authorization and with the participation of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee as described herein.

The Superintendent shall periodically decide through random selection the areas of the District that should be searched, but can also direct the search to any areas he/she deems necessary.

**Qualifications of Dogs**

The credibility and accuracy of the dogs to be used shall have been established by a record of performance that justifies reliance upon the dog.

The dog's owner/handler shall provide proof that he maintains adequate and comprehensive insurance for its performance, satisfactory to the discretion of the Superintendent.

Emphasis should be placed on trying to use dogs that "passively alert" when they discover drugs. For example, a passively alerting dog might sit next to a person who is carrying drugs, rather than "actively" alerting by barking, scratching at the place of the smell, or in any way touching the person.

Emphasis should be placed on finding dogs that do not touch students in any way and that have a good record for maintaining distance.

Furthermore, the District may want to select dogs that are less physically imposing and aggressive, if such breeds are available as sniffer dogs.

## **Preparation**

The dog handler(s) should meet with the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee and go over procedures in their entirety regarding dog-sniff searches in the school context.

Establish procedures requiring students and teachers to stay in their classrooms during the dog-sniff search. This includes setting procedures to ensure that people do not come in or leave the building during searches. The school should be placed in a "lock down" situation.

No person should be physically restrained from leaving the building. Instead, persons who attempt to leave should be warned that they may be disciplined for leaving the building, and a list should be created of those who leave the building despite such warnings.

Set procedures for searching or questioning those who are alerted on during dog sniff searches. This may include establishing a "holding area" where individuals are monitored while they wait for questioning or search after a dog has alerted on them, and appointing monitors to the area. In no event should the holding-area monitor attempt to physically prevent any person from leaving or suggest that such person may be physically prevented from leaving. Instead, staff monitors should warn individuals that they may be disciplined if they leave the holding area.

## **Procedures**

The dog and trainer should be observed or escorted by school staff during the search. Also, adequate witnesses should be available in the event that the dog alerts. There should be adequate staff available to escort those alerted-on to the holding area.

The dog handler shall, at all times, be responsible for handling the dog, and should ensure that the dog has no physical contact with any student or employee while the dog is at work. Administrative staff should facilitate any physical arrangements necessary to ensure that no such physical contact is made by the dog and students/employees.

Written record should be kept of names of students the handler identifies as subjects of alerts.

Procedures should be put in place for the escort, search, or questioning of any person who a dog indicates may possess or may have been in contact with contraband. In no event should any person be subjected to any physical force or restraint, nor should it be suggested to any person that physical force or restraint may be used.

If vehicles on school property, lockers, desks, or similar storage facilities under the school's control are to be searched due to a dog's "alert," the procedures for each such type of search should be observed under the supervision of administrative staff and carried out pursuant to district search and seizure policy.

Those students or employees directed to the holding area should be questioned and searched or released as soon as possible in accordance with the District's search and seizure policy.

The procedures previously described should be followed in each building visited.

## **Completion Procedures**

Once the dog and handler have been escorted out of the building, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will announce over the public-address system that the "Lock Down" is over. The use of telephones and building entrances may then also return to normal.

All records made by entrance monitors, etc., shall immediately be signed and dated and presented to the Superintendent.

Questioning and searching of students or employees in the holding area may be conducted. All such questioning or searching shall be conducted by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee according to the procedures provided herein, as soon as possible after the dog and handler leave the building. Such questioning and searches should not be conducted in the presence of other holding-area subjects, but shall be conducted in the presence of

witnesses designated by the Superintendent.

## **Confidentiality**

### **Non-disclosure**

No information of any type that leads to or results from a search or seizure should be communicated, revealed, or disclosed by school personnel to any person, except as follows:

- Such information should be communicated to other school personnel only upon a "need-to-know" basis. A "need-to-know" basis means that the person to whom such information is communicated is authorized to take action on behalf of the School District upon such information and needs the information to discharge his/her responsibilities.
- Such information may be communicated to the parent/guardian of any unemancipated student to whom the information relates, such information may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies only upon the authorization of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.