
I. PURPOSE

Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish strives to maintain a safe and healthful environment for students by prohibiting the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, toxic substances, controlled substances without a physician's prescription, and weapons. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to use or possess any type of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapon, or drug paraphernalia at Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish, and any reasonable suspicion merits grounds for a search and seizure.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Reasonable Suspicion: Arises when the facts surrounding the incident or suspicion could cause another person in the same situation to suspect the student of possession or use of controlled substances without a physician's prescription or an item that is traditionally defined as a weapon or intended to be used as a weapon, as well as any paraphernalia associated with controlled substances.

III. POLICY

- A. This policy extends to all school facilities and includes all school property, including school lockers, cubbies and desks, and all off-campus events sponsored by the school.
- B. Students, parent/guardians, and school employees shall be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year of the Governing Board's authority to conduct unannounced searches of students, lockers, automobiles, school employees, and any other person or object on school property and at school sponsored events.
- C. Qualifications for a Search and Seizure:
 - 1. Use of controlled substances, toxic substances, and/or alcohol before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any location in which a school-related activity is held is prohibited.
 - 2. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances is prohibited on school grounds.
 - 3. Clothing and accessories that promote or advertise controlled substances are banned by the student dress code.

4. The appropriate school administrator must have “reasonable suspicion” that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated the law, a school rule, or a school board policy and the scope of search must be deemed “reasonable.”

D. Search and Seizure Protocol:

1. School officials may inspect the interiors of lockers, cubbies, and desks for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
2. School officials may inspect the personal possessions of a student and/or a student’s person based on a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules.
3. A search consists of the student emptying the item(s) being searched under observation.
 - a. A search may involve any student’s personal possession, cubby, locker, electronic device, and may include asking a student to empty his/her pockets;
 - b. If the student is non-compliant, employees may empty the item(s) being searched; and
 - c. Gloves are advised.
4. For searches of a student’s person, a search shall be conducted by at least two school employees, in private, and be conducted by an employee of the same sex as the student.
5. Law enforcement may be involved if a student is in possession of illegal substances, has intent to use legal substances dangerously (i.e. prescription drugs or common chemicals), or if school administration otherwise deems it necessary.
6. Found materials that require retention shall be secured in a room to which no individuals shall have access without the presence of another staff member in order to prevent the destruction, alteration, or disappearance of the materials.
7. Materials that law enforcement advises administration may be disposed of are to be disposed of according to any hazardous materials regulations and in such a manner that students are unlikely to find and recover the materials.
8. An employee who violates the provisions of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary procedures up to and including termination.

E. The appropriate school administrator is responsible for the prompt and thorough recording in writing of each search.

1. All documentation of the search must be kept strictly confidential to protect the student’s privacy.

2. Parent/guardian notification is not required before a search is conducted, although it is suggested.

F. Consequences:

1. Any student found to be in possession of prohibited substances or items will be disciplined according to the school's *Discipline Policy 5502*.

Legal References:

[L.A. R.S. 17:416.3](#) (*Search of students' persons, desks, lockers, other areas*)

Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 741, [§1317](#)

Related Documents:

Discipline Policy 5502