



SEARCH OF STUDENT PERSON AND PROPERTY POLICY

Purpose

To maintain a safe and orderly environment for all students and staff, Bonneville Academy authorizes reasonable searches of students, their belongings, and school property when justified by reasonable suspicion. This policy is aligned with Utah Code § 53G-8-509 and respects student rights while prioritizing school safety.

1. Student Lockers

- Lockers are the property of Bonneville Academy. Students have no expectation of privacy in locker use.
- Lockers and contents may be searched at any time, with or without cause.
- If possible, the student should be present for the locker search.
- A second adult (staff or administrator) should be present unless an emergency prevents it.
- Non-contraband personal items discovered will be treated with respect and discretion.
- Any discovered contraband may be referred to law enforcement.

2. Personal Belongings

School officials may search items such as:

- Backpacks, coats, hats, purses, gym bags, notebooks, or wallets

Searches require:

- Reasonable suspicion that a rule or law was violated
- The search must be related to the suspicion and not excessively intrusive given the student's age, sex, and the suspected offense

Students may be asked to:

- Open personal items and show contents
- Turn over property for inspection
- A third-party witness should be present during all searches of personal belongings.

3. Searches of Person

- Only school officials of the same sex as the student may conduct a search of a student's person.
- Searches must occur in a private setting with an adult witness (also of the same sex).
- Permitted actions include:
 - Asking the student to remove hat, coat, shoes, and socks
 - Asking the student to turn pockets inside out or roll up sleeves

Prohibited actions:

- Removing or requiring the removal of other clothing
- Physical contact of any kind during the search





If suspicion persists that contraband is hidden in inner clothing (e.g., undergarments), law enforcement must be contacted immediately.

4. Law Enforcement Involvement

School officials may involve law enforcement at any stage, especially if:

- Contraband is criminal in nature
- A more intrusive search is required
- There is a risk to the student or others
- All contraband should be turned over to law enforcement if a crime is suspected.

5. Documentation of Searches

All searches must be documented as soon as possible, including:

- Date, time, and location of the search
- Reasonable suspicion that prompted the search
- Names and titles of all personnel involved
- Description of items found (if any)
- Who took custody of any contraband
- Steps taken to notify parents

