

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date Submitted: July 18, 1989 Date Reviewed: January 17, 2006 March 17, 2009	Number: 600-28
Subject: Use of Drug-Detecting Dogs	Date Approved: July 18, 1989 February 21, 2006 May 26, 2009 Date Revised: March 17, 2009 Date Effective: July 18, 1989 February 21, 2006 May 26, 2009

1. PURPOSE

To establish the policy (procedures) under which drug-detecting dogs may be used on school property In Somerset County.

2. GUIDELINES

The Attorney General has determined that use of drug-detecting dogs in schools does not offend either an individual's rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution or the Bylaws of the Maryland State Board of Education. Therefore, the Somerset County Board of Education authorizes use of drug-detecting dogs in the schools; primarily for the purpose of deterrence. Such searches may be necessary to ensure that our students have a drug-free environment and to protect the reputations of our Somerset County students.

A. Drug Search Procedures

- (1) Prior to Implementation of these procedures permission must be obtained by the principal of the school from the Superintendent of Schools or his designee. The arrangements for the search will be done from the Superintendent's office.
- (2) The principal will inform all students that trained drug-detection dogs will be used by certain police and other criminal enforcement authorities including but not limited to the Maryland State Police and/or Somerset County Sheriff's Department to search the school building for controlled dangerous substances. This notice must be given prior to the first search during the school year when students are in attendance. This advanced publicity will be provided by one or more of the following means: public address system, assemblies, and school newsletter. It is advisable to make parents aware that drug-detection dogs will be used.
- (3) The Police Officer still make arrangements with the Principal in advance of any use of a drug-detection dog.
- (4) The Principal will accompany any police or other criminal enforcement authority including the Maryland State Police and/or Somerset County Sheriff's Department when a search is made.

- (5) When a drug-detection dog suspects the presence of a controlled dangerous substance in a school locker, the student who is assigned to the locker will be asked by the principal to open it. If the student refuses, or is not present the principal, in the presence of a witness other than the student, will open the locker to inspect its contents.
- (6) Any such search must be in the presence of a school administrator or his designee.
- (7) Any illegal substance found during any search will be placed in an envelope marked with the time, date, locker identification and student(s) name(s), in the absence of a police officer by the principal. The principal or his designee will turn the envelope over to the appropriate law enforcement agency for analysis.
- (8) The principal will implement the Board of Education's Policy concerning possession of a controlled substance.
- (9) A drug-detection dog will not be used routinely to search an area which has people in close proximity to the object being searched or when there is a high probability that the dog and his handler will be subjected to harassment.