

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: Use of Drug Detection Dogs	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Student Support Services Handbook	
Amendment:	

A. Purpose: 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.

B. Policy Statement: The Queen Anne's County Public School System believes that school must be a safe place for students and staff. Therefore, the Queen Anne's County Board of Education authorizes use of drug detecting dogs in the school; primarily for the purpose of deterrence, not criminal prosecution. Such searches may be necessary to ensure that our students have a drug-free environment and to protect the reputations of our Queen Anne's County students.

C. Rationale: Children and staff must be assured that they are attending school in a safe environment each day.

D. Implementation: The Superintendent shall develop Administrative Regulations to implement this policy.

Drug Search Procedures

1. Prior to implementation of these procedures, permission must be obtained by the principal of the school **or the designated school administrator** from the Superintendent of Schools or his designee (**Supervisor of Student Support Services**).
2. The principal will inform all students that trained drug detection dogs will be used to search the school building **and grounds** for controlled dangerous substances (**CDS**). This notice must be given prior to the first search during the school year when pupils are in attendance. This advanced publicity will be provided by one or more of the following means:
 - Public address system
 - Assemblies
 - School newsletter

- **School or Board of Education Website**

3. The **principal or school administration** will make arrangements with the **police authorities** in advance of any use of a drug detection dog.
4. The first search in a school year will be when students are not in attendance. **If a drug detection dog suspects the presence of a CDS in a school locker, the locker will be sealed. When students return, the procedure indicated in #7 will be followed.**
5. The principal **or school administrator** will accompany the officer when a search is made.
6. Under no circumstances will a drug detection dog be used to sniff any person.
7. When a drug detection dog suspects the presence of a **CDS** in a school locker, the student who is assigned to the locker will be asked by the principal **or school administrator** to open it. **The student has the right to refuse and must be made aware of this right.** If the student refuses, **school staff may not search the locker.**
8. The police officer will not open or search a locker without a proper search warrant specifying the locker to be searched. Any such search **of the locker** must be in the presence of a school administrator.
9. **If an illegal substance is found, it** will be placed in an envelope. The envelope will be marked with the time, date, locker identification and student(s) name(s). The principal or **school administrator** will turn the envelope over to the appropriate law enforcement agency for analysis **and will contact the student's parent immediately.**
10. The principal **or school administrator** will implement the Board of Education's policy and the administrative procedures for **CDS.**
11. The drug detection dog will not be used 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.
12. **When a drug detection dog suspects the presence of a CDS in a vehicle on school property, the school will contact the student who has registered the vehicle with the school for permission to search. The student has the right to refuse; and must be made aware of that right. If granted, the vehicle will be searched. If permission is not obtained, the police will obtain a search warrant to search the vehicle.**