

	NEPN Code: JIH/STI
Policies and Regulations	

Students

Student Searches

Southeast Technical Institute administrators are authorized to make searches of persons' personal property and vehicles and STI owned/provided property under the conditions outlined below.

“STI owned/provided property” includes, but is not limited to buildings, parking lots, desks, instruments, electronic devices, storage containers, storage areas, lockers, computer systems and equipment, voice-mail, and vehicles. This property is intended for use for educational purposes and STI business only.

Student and Student Property Searches

A student and/or a student's personal property (e.g. purse, back pack, book bag, cell phone, electronic devices, luggage taken on institute sponsored trips etc.) may be searched when an administrator has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of items that are unauthorized, illegal, or contraband. Searches of a student's garments while being worn (such as jackets, socks, pockets, etc.) will be conducted in private. A STI administrator, or designee of the same gender with another adult, must be present during the search. The employee who conducts the search must be the same gender as the student.

A more intrusive search of the student's person is permissible in emergency situations when the health and safety of students, employees or visitors on the institute premises are threatened. Such a search may only be conducted in private by A STI administrator, or designee of the same gender, with an adult of the same gender present, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay caused by following these procedures.

If a personal search of a minor has been conducted, the administration will inform the parent/guardian by the end of the day. If circumstances do not allow for verbal notification on the same day, a letter will be sent.

Searches of STI Owned/Provided Property

STI owned/provided property is temporarily assigned to individual students, but remains the property of STI at all times. Students have no expectation of privacy or confidentiality when using STI owned/provided property.

However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of STI owned/provided property. Students are not to share STI owned/provided property unless assigned by the administration or designee (e.g. Students should not share private locker combinations with other students).

Maintenance Searches

STI has a reasonable and valid interest in ensuring that the STI owned/provided property is properly maintained. For this reason, periodic inspection of STI owned/provided property is permissible to check for cleanliness and vandalism. General maintenance inspections may be conducted by STI's staff if instructed by a STI administrator, or designee, at any time without notice, without the student's consent and without a search warrant.

Any contraband discovered during such searches will be confiscated by the administration. The administration may refer a student to outside agencies for assistance or to law enforcement officers, depending upon the severity of the situation.

Non-maintenance Searches

STI owned/provided property and its contents may be searched by a STI administrator or designee when a reasonable suspicion exists that the property contains items that are unauthorized, illegal, or contraband. Whenever possible the student should be aware of and be involved in a search of such property. Emergency situations may necessitate a search with or without the student's knowledge. Such searches should be conducted in the presence of another adult witness.

Vehicle Searches

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not a right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lots and inspections of the exterior of vehicles. The interior of a student's vehicle on the school premises may be searched by a STI administrator or designee if the administration has reasonable suspicion to believe items that are unauthorized, illegal, or contraband are contained inside. Whenever possible the student should be aware of and be involved in a search of the vehicle. Emergency situations may necessitate a search with or without the student's knowledge or consent. Such searches must always involve two adults.

Law Enforcement Involvement

Any search and/or seizure by law enforcement officials will occur only when law enforcement officials properly advise school personnel that they have lawful authority to conduct the search and/or seizure.

Informing Students and Parents

STI shall inform students and parents/guardians of minors of this policy regarding searches through the STI Handbook/Catalog and provide written copies on request.

Legal Reference: SDCL 13-5-1
SDCL 13-8-39

RELATED POLICIES:

INJDC-R/STI – Acceptable and Ethical Use of Technology
Resources
GBEB/STI – Code of Conduct

STI Policy		Board Action
adopted:	03-22-04	33778
reviewed:	03-22-10	35655
amended:	04-23-12	36350
reviewed:	05-28-13	36633