

CANINE DETECTION PROCEDURE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish guidelines for the implementation of the School System's Canine Detection Policy File JIHD.

Definitions:

Controlled Substance/Narcotics Detection Canine - A law enforcement working-class dog that has been procured and specially trained to make use of the canine's superior sense of smell.

Handler - A law enforcement officer trained in the care, handling and training of a narcotics detection canine for law enforcement.

Canine Team - A Handler and his/her assigned canine working in conjunction with local law enforcement and the Nantucket Public Schools.

Operating Procedures

- Requests for assistance of a Canine Team shall be made by the building administrators and directed to the School's Resource Officer who shall contact the appropriate agency, ascertain the availability of the team, coordinate the transportation of the team, determine a schedule that will ensure the least disruption of the school and allow for the maximum usage of the canine.
- Only the appropriate Administrative Staff will be notified that a Canine Search is to be conducted.
- While on school property the Canine Team will be accompanied, at all times, by a school administrator and/or the School Resource Officer. The school administrator shall have the authority to abort the search at any time.
- Any notification of students and/or press releases will be directed by the Superintendent.
- If a controlled substance is found, the Superintendent will, as soon as possible immediately after the search and related actions, be notified and shall notify the members of the School Committee.
- At the conclusion of a search where a controlled substance is found, a written report will be submitted by the School Resource Officer, including a report by the Canine Team, to the Superintendent.
- The Superintendent and School Resource Officer shall be available to attend the next School Committee meeting after a Canine Search to answer any questions.

Search Procedures

- **Student Lockers** - If a canine alerts to a locker indicating the presence of controlled substance/narcotics, the School Resource Officer and Administration will proceed in accordance with system policies and procedures.
- **Building and Grounds** - Canine searches of any classroom, cafeteria, or any other area in the schools or on school grounds shall only be done when students are not immediately present.

- **Vehicles** - Canines may be used to determine the presence of controlled substances/narcotics in vehicles parked on school grounds. Upon canine alert indicating the presence of controlled substances/narcotics in a vehicle, the vehicle shall be secured by the School Resource Officer and it will be determined as to who has control of the vehicle and the School Administration and Resource Officer will proceed according to system policies and procedures.
- **Persons** - Canines may be used to search persons for the presence of controlled substances/narcotics. Any person found in possession of controlled substances/narcotics will be, in accordance with school system policies and procedures, subject to school action and prosecution under Massachusetts General Law.