

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY

CODE: 446.2

SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE OF ADOPTION: 11/16/1998

THE USE OF DRUG SNIFFING DOGS BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

I. Policy Statement

The Deerfield Board of Education has a strong and long-standing commitment to discouraging and preventing the use of illegal drugs and alcohol among its student population. The Board recognizes that the problem of illegal drug and alcohol abuse presents a continuing challenge in its schools, and a clear danger to the student population. To meet this challenge, and to address this danger, the Board authorizes the use of trained drug-sniffing dogs by school officials when and at such intervals deemed appropriate, in the discretion of the District Administrator or his/her designee.

II. Procedures

Use of drug-sniffing dogs shall be approved and overseen by the District Administrator or his/her designee. Under normal circumstances, the use of the dogs shall be limited to sniffing students' lockers, possessions (such as backpacks or jackets, when removed) or cars in the parking lots of the school. In the event the District Administrator or his/her designee determines that circumstances so warrant, drug sniffing dogs may be used in the school to sniff students, providing that the dogs shall not physically put their noses on the students.

The District Administrator or designee shall make arrangements to obtain the services of drug-sniffing dogs. Any drug-sniffing dogs utilized under this policy shall be determined and warranted by their handlers/trainers to be suitably trained to detect illegal drugs by scent. Dogs shall be used for sniffing drugs only under the supervision, and at the behest, of the District Administrator or his/her designee. In particular, use of drug sniffing dogs under this policy shall not be made at the behest of, or under the control of, individuals acting in the capacity of police officers. Use of drug sniffing dogs is not intended to constitute a police search.

Prior to any use of drug-sniffing dogs, a written copy of this Policy shall be distributed to all students of the school in the Deerfield Community School District.

Reference: Doe v. Renfrew, 475 F. Supp. 1012 (N.D. Ind. 1979) modified, 6331 F. 2d 91 (7th Cir. 1980), cert. denied, 451 U.S. 1022 (1981)