



Striking a balance between a student's legitimate expectations of privacy and the school's equally legitimate need to maintain a safe environment conducive to learning requires the careful balancing of the need to search against the invasion the search entails

- I. Reasonable suspicion standard: The legality of a search of a student depends on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search
 - A. On what facts is the reasonable suspicion based?
 1. Look to the degree to which known facts imply prohibited conduct
 2. Look at the specificity of the information received
 3. Look at the reliability of the source

The search must be both:

1. Justified at its inception: Presence of reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating school rules and/or the law
 - The law or rule must be legitimate
 - Ask questions. Get information. The search must be based on more than a "hunch"; the search may be based on a common-sense conclusion about human behavior
2. Permissible in its scope: Reasonably related in scope to the circumstances that justified the interference in the first place
 - a. the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search; and
 - b. not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction