

Pupils
Locker Search
Date Adopted Sept. 26, 1979
Date Revised July 22, 1986
Date Revised August 11, 1998

226 LOCKER SEARCH

PURPOSE

The Board acknowledges the need for safe in-school storage of books, clothing, school materials and other personal property and may provide lockers and cabinets for such storage.

AUTHORITY

All lockers and cabinets are and shall remain the property of the school district. Students are encouraged to keep their assigned lockers or cabinets closed and locked against intrusion by other students, but no student may use a locker as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or District policy or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.

The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect or search a student's locker, at any time, without prior notice to the student, for any reason, whether or not reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student has violated or is violating the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the rules of the District itself.

Students shall register with the school office the combination or a copy of the key for said lock prior to its use on a locker. Students shall be required to sign a waiver in order to have the use of a school locker.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The principals under direction of the Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy which shall include, when possible:

- Requests or suggestions for the search of a student's locker shall be directed to the school building principal or his/her designee (the person in charge when the principal is out of the building).
- The principal shall open a student's locker for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer, subject to the conditions specified in other sections of this policy.

- The principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each locker inspection, which record shall include the reasons for the search, persons present, objects found, and their disposition.

Whenever the search or inspection of a student's locker or cabinet is prompted by a reasonable suspicion that the contents of the student's locker contain a substance or object, the possession of which violates either the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the rules of the District, or create an emergency, the principal or his/her designee, in conjunction with another professional employee, may inspect or search the locker immediately, so as to properly discharge his/her duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.

The principal shall provide notice, in writing, the students at the beginning of each school year that the locker or cabinet they are assigned by the District remains the sole property of the District and is subject to inspection or search at any time by the District or its employees, with or without the reasonable belief that there has been a violation of either the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the rules of the District, and therefore, the students shall have no expectation of privacy in the locker or any contents placed therein.

The superintendent is authorized to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.