



A World-Class Community of Learners

Fridley Public Schools is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.

502 SEARCH OF STUDENT LOCKERS, DESKS, PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, AND STUDENT'S PERSON

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing the school district's policies against contraband.

II. General Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the school board that students shall use lockers and desks only for authorized purposes; unauthorized use, including, but not limited to storage of contraband articles is strictly prohibited. It shall be a violation for students to carry contraband on their persons or in their personal possessions. It shall be a violation for students to assist others in concealing or carrying contraband as well. Seized contraband items will not be returned to students and may be turned over by school administrators to legal authorities for appropriate disposition. School administrators shall establish reasonable directives which address specific needs of the school district, such as, use of tape in lockers, standards of cleanliness and care, posting of pin-ups and posters which may constitute sexual harassment, and other guidelines for use of school equipment and facilities.

A. Lockers and Personal Possessions Inside a Locker

Pursuant to Minnesota statutes, school lockers are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by the school for any reason, at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules.

As soon as is practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school administrator must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched, unless such disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

B. Desks

School desks are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of desks provided for the authorized school use and convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason, at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

C. Personal Possessions and Student's Person



A World-Class Community of Learners

Fridley Public Schools is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.

The personal possessions of students and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

- D. A violation of this policy occurs when students use lockers and desks for unauthorized purposes or to store contraband. A violation occurs when students carry contraband on their person or in their personal possessions.

III. Definitions

- A. "Contraband" means any unauthorized article or item that is prohibited by school policy or law and for which possession of such articles or items by students is not allowed at any time in school or on school grounds. Contraband articles or items include, but are not limited to: weapons and look-alike weapons, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances and look-alike substances, stolen property, , and other materials belonging to the school district.
- B. "Personal possessions" includes, but is not limited to purses, backpacks, book bags, packages, and clothing.
- C. "Reasonable suspicion" means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school district policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official's personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.
- D. "Reasonable scope" means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Factors to consider in determining what is reasonable include the seriousness of the suspected infraction, the reliability of the information, the necessity of acting without delay, the existence of exigent circumstances necessitating an immediate search and further investigation (e.g. to prevent violence, serious and immediate risk of harm, or destruction of evidence), and the age of the student.

IV. Procedures

- A. School officials may inspect the interiors of lockers and desks for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
- B. School officials may inspect the personal possessions of a student and/or a student's person based on a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. A search of personal possessions of a student and/or a student's person will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.



A World-Class Community of Learners

Fridley Public Schools is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.

- C. As soon as practicable after a search of personal possessions within a locker pursuant to this policy, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose possessions were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.
- D. Whenever feasible, a search of a person shall be conducted in private by a school official of the same gender. A second school official of the same gender shall be present as an observer during the search of a person whenever feasible.
- E. A strip search is a search involving the removal of coverings or clothing from private areas. Mass strip searches, or body cavity searches, are prohibited. Strip searches will be conducted only in circumstances involving imminent danger and only by school administrators or law enforcement authorities.
- F. A school official conducting any other search may determine when it is appropriate to have a second official present as an observer.
- G. A copy of this policy will be printed in the student handbook and may also be disseminated in any other way which school administrators deem appropriate. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy to a student when the student is given use of a locker.

V. Directives and Guidelines

School administration may establish reasonable directives and guidelines which address specific needs of the school district, such as use of tape in lockers, standards of cleanliness and care, posting of pin-ups and posters which may constitute sexual harassment, etc.

VI. Seizure or Contraband

If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item and, where appropriate, turn it over to legal officials for ultimate disposition.

VII. Violations

A student found to have violated this policy and/or the directives and guidelines implementing this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district policies, which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion. When deemed appropriate, school administrators may refer the student to legal authorities.

Legal References:

U.S. Const., amend. IV

Minn. Const., art. I, § 10

Minn. Stat. 121A.72 (School Locker Policy)



Fridley Public Schools is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.

A World-Class Community of Learners

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325, 105 S.Ct. 733, 83 L.Ed.2d 720 (1985)
G.C. v. Owensboro Public Schools, 711 F.3d 623 (6th Cir. 2013)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

School Board Action:

Revised as Policy 8.300 August, 1995
Revised as Policy 502 June 18, 2002
Revised April 21, 2015
Revised October 19, 2021