



Propel Schools Scholar Search Policy

School administration reserves the right to search a student, a locker, a bag, a person, or vehicle on school property if the administration feels it is in the best interest of the safety of the school.

Propel provides lockers for storage of students' books, school materials and personal property. This policy is designed to establish guidelines for situations in which student lockers may be searched or inspected.

Procedures

Lockers are the property of Propel. Therefore, students have only a limited expectation of privacy in their lockers.

Students are required to ensure that their lockers do not contain spoiled food items or beverages, or soiled clothing which may attract pests, create odors or cause unhealthy conditions. A student locker may be opened and inspected, with or without the consent of the student, whenever there are odors, pests, or other indications that a locker may contain these items or similarly unhealthy conditions.

Lockers will not be used to store any substance or item that is prohibited by law or Propel policy or rules, or that presents a threat to the health, safety or welfare of Propel's community or property

- ❖ Propel may conduct without suspicion unannounced blanket or random searches of lockers if school officials determine in good faith that a substantial problem is threatening the welfare or safety of students and staff and that blanket or random searches may help solve or eliminate the problem. Before such a search is conducted, Propel will take the following steps:
 - The Superintendent or his/her designee and the school principal will jointly approve the search.
 - The Superintendent or his/her designee and the school principal will determine the method and scope of the search. Blanket searches will include all lockers in a school or all lockers in a section of a school. Random searches will include only those lockers chosen at random without discretion of school officials. For example, searching every fourth locker in a school.



- ❖ The signature page at the end of this handbook serves as an acknowledgment of this policy. Failure or refusal to sign the acknowledgment will have no effect on Propel's right to search student lockers.
- ❖ Propel reserves the right to search a student's locker at any time based on reasonable suspicion for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being used improperly for the storage of contraband, drugs or controlled substances, illegal objects or anything that poses a threat to the school population.
- ❖ Inspections or searches may include but not be limited to the use of law enforcement, certified drug-sniffing dogs, metal detectors or any similar means or device used to protect the health, safety and welfare of the school population.
- ❖ The principal or designee will be present whenever a student locker is searched on the basis of reasonable suspicion or a cleanliness inspection. The principal or designated staff shall maintain written records of all occasions when a locker is searched or inspected. Such records shall include the reason(s) for the search/inspection, persons present, objects found and their disposition.
- ❖ The student will be notified and be given an opportunity to be present before an individual locker cleanliness inspection or search based on reasonable suspicion. If, however, Propel has reasonable suspicion that a locker contains something that poses a threat substance or an item that poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of Propel's school population, the student locker may be searched without prior warning and without the student being present.
- ❖ A principal shall open a student locker on the request of law enforcement only upon presentation by the requesting officer of a duly authorized search warrant, or that the circumstances otherwise permit the search to be lawfully conducted in accordance with the standards applicable to law enforcement actions, or on the intelligent and voluntary consent of the student. School staff will not interfere with or obstruct searches initiated by law enforcement, but may assist when law enforcement officials have requested such assistance.
- ❖ The principal will be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposition of any substance or item found in a student locker if such substance or item is prohibited by law, Propel policy or rules, or presents a threat to the health, safety or welfare of Propel's community or property. Confiscated substances or items may be used as evidence in a disciplinary hearing.
- ❖ Illegal or dangerous substances or items will be given to law enforcement officials.
- ❖ Students are responsible for the security of their lockers.
- ❖ Students, parents and staff will receive a copy of this policy annually per the Scholar and Family Handbook and via the school website.
- ❖ The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures to implement this policy.



Approved By	Date
Dr. Tina Chekan	June 16, 2021
Board of Trustees	June 16, 2021