

Lewistown School District

STUDENTS

3231P

Searches and Seizure

Locker Inspection

Lockers and desks are the property of the District, and at no time does the District relinquish its exclusive control of the lockers. Periodic inspections of lockers and their contents may be conducted by school authorities for any reason and at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. All lockers and all items students choose to store in the lockers (e.g., purses, book bags, coats, etc.) are subject to inspection under this policy. No student may use a locker for the storage of a substance or object that is prohibited or that constitutes a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the occupants of the school building or to the building itself.

Lockers are provided as a service and convenience to students. It is not mandatory that students be assigned a locker. Students who choose to ignore or abuse the school locker policy have the option of carrying their books or personal possessions with them throughout the school day.

Searches of Students and Their Property

To maintain order and discipline in District schools, and to ensure the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student's person or personal property, including vehicles, under circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal or unauthorized materials or contraband discovered in the search.

A student's refusal to cooperate with searches and seizures as provided herein may be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Personal Searches. A student's person and/or personal effects not stored in a locker (e.g., purse, book bag, coat, etc.) may be searched, whenever school authorities have reasonable suspicion to believe the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials.

Vehicle Searches. Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The District retains the authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exteriors of students' vehicles on school property. The interiors of student vehicles may be subject to search, whenever school officials have reasonable suspicion that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections and any resulting searches may be conducted without notice and without student consent.

If a search of a student or his/her property yields illegal materials or contraband, such materials or contraband will be turned over to proper legal authorities for disposition.

Use of Canines. In order to provide for the health and safety of its students, the District may from time to time utilize canines in an effort to promote and maintain a safe, drug-free environment for students and staff. Canines may be used to detect contraband in the following circumstances:

Lockers or Other School Property. Canines may be used to detect contraband contained in lockers or any other school property.

Vehicles. Canines may be used to detect contraband contained in vehicles on school property and any other commonly used student parking areas adjacent to the school.

In the event an inspection by a canine indicates the presence of contraband, a search/inspection may be conducted by school authorities.

Policy History:

Adopted on: June 28, 2004

Revised on: