

446 - STUDENT SEARCH ACTIVITIES

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and healthy environment for all persons in school buildings and on school premises. School officials have a duty to investigate any suspicion that items or materials harmful to the health and safety of students, school personnel, or property are present within the school or on school premises. This includes conducting search activities as outlined in this policy.

Locker Searches – A school locker is provided for the convenience of the student to be used solely and exclusively for the storage of the student's wearing apparel and school-related materials during the time the student is attending school. No student shall use the locker for any other purpose. The locker is assigned to a student but remains the property of the District. At no time does the District relinquish its exclusive control of the lockers. Locker searches may be conducted as determined necessary or appropriate without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The locker assigned to a student may be opened and inspected by school authorities (minimum of two individuals) assisted or unassisted by law enforcement officers at any time.

Search of Students and/or Their Personal Belongings – District staff may conduct a search of a student or the student's personal belongings (e.g., backpacks) when there is reasonable suspicion that the student has in his/her possession items that violate the law, Board policies or school rules. The search shall be conducted in a reasonable manner and must not be overly intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and nature of the infraction. Searches of a student's person or personal belongings should be conducted outside the presence of other students to the extent possible. No school official shall conduct a strip search of a student.

Vehicle Searches – The District may search student-operated vehicles parked on school premises when there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of the law, Board policies or school rules or the student has given consent to the search of the vehicle. A student's privilege of obtaining a permit to park a vehicle on school premises during the school day is conditioned on him/her signing a written consent to such a search.

Use of Canine Units in Search Activities - The School Board authorizes the use of trained canine units to detect the presence of drugs or explosive devices on school property under the following conditions: (1) the presence of the canine unit on school property is authorized in advance by the District Administrator or designee or is pursuant to a court order or warrant, (2) a law enforcement officer specifically trained to work safely and competently with the canine unit must handle the canine, and (3) the canine unit is represented by the sheriff or chief of the law enforcement agency providing the service as capable of accurately detecting drugs and/or explosive devices. The District shall not use trained canine units to sniff a student's person, including articles of clothing a student is wearing or a bag while the student is holding it. A positive reaction by a trained canine unit will provide reasonable suspicion for a search of a student's locker, vehicle or other property in accordance with this policy.

446 STUDENT SEARCH ACTIVITIES

Page 2

Search activities under this policy may be conducted by the District Administrator, a Building Principal or Assistant Principal, a school employee specifically designated by the District Administrator or Building Principal, a School Liaison Officer, or other law enforcement official at the request of or in conjunction with school authorities.

School officials may remove any unauthorized item found as a result of a search. Items removed may be held by the school for return to the student's parent or guardian, or retained for disciplinary proceedings. If the unauthorized item found involves a possible law violation, the item shall be turned over to law enforcement officials. The student and his/her parent or guardian shall be notified of any unauthorized item found that is turned over to law enforcement officials.

Students and their parents and guardians shall be informed of this policy annually through the student handbook.

Legal References: Sections 118.32; 118.325; 948.50 of Wisconsin Statutes and the 4th Amendment of US Constitution

Adopted: August 26, 1997

Approved: November 19, 2014