

Locker Search

I. Purpose

The Joint Committee 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.

II. Authority

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

The Joint Committee authorizes the Director and the Director's designees to inspect a student's locker when they have a reasonable suspicion that the locker is improperly used for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material which poses a hazard to the safety and good order of the school. Prior to a locker search, the student shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. However, where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of the students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.

III. Delegation of Responsibility

The Director shall develop procedures to implement this policy which shall require:

- A. all requests or suggestions for the search of a student's locker to be directed to one of the administrators.
- B. wherever possible before opening the locker for inspection, the administrator shall notify the Director and appoint a third party to be present at the inspection.

Director Procedure Number: DC105
Title: Locker Search
Section: Students

Locker Search

The Director or designee shall be present whenever a student locker is inspected.

Whenever the search of a student's locker is prompted by the reasonable suspicion that the contents of a student's locker create an emergency, the Director or designee may open the locker as soon as it is necessary to do so to discharge properly his/her duty to protect the persons and property in the school. Otherwise, the Director or designee shall open a student's locker for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer only on presentation of a duly authorized search warrant or on the intelligently and voluntarily given consent of the student.

The Director shall be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found to be improperly stored in a student's locker.

The Director 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.

22 Pa. Code § 12.14

Adopted: 1/27/82
Revised: 10/12/94