### 226. SEARCHES

#### 1. Purpose

The Board acknowledges that while all persons are constitutionally protected against unreasonable searches and seizures, the need to maintain a safe and healthy school environment may involve searches of persons, possessions, lockers and vehicles. Searches may involve the use of drug dogs.

The Board acknowledges the need for safe in-school storage of books, clothing, school materials and other personal property and may provide lockers for such storage purposes only.

#### 2. Guidelines

**SC 510**

It shall be the policy of the Board that all such lockers are and shall remain the property of the school district. As such, students shall have only a limited expectation of privacy in their lockers.

No student may use a locker or automobile as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or district regulations, or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the school grounds.

Students, parents, and staff shall be notified at least annually, or more often if deemed appropriate by the administration, concerning the contents of this policy.

A violation of this policy shall result in disciplinary proceedings which may include suspension, expulsion, and/or arrest.

#### 3. Authority

**Searches of Lockers**

The Board authorizes its employees to inspect a student's locker when such employee has reasonable grounds to believe that the locker is being used as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or district regulations, or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself. Such materials may be used as evidence against the student(s) in disciplinary proceedings.
### Delegation of Responsibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title 22&lt;br&gt;Sec. 12.14</th>
<th>The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy which shall require:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. All requests or suggestions for the search of a student's locker shall be directed to the school building principal/assistant principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Prior to a locker search, the student shall be notified, and given an opportunity to be present, and permitted to call a parent or another representative. However, where school authorities have reasonable grounds to believe that the locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, a student’s locker may be searched without prior warning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. The principal or assistant principal shall be present whenever a student locker is inspected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. The principal/assistant principal 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. The principal/assistant principal shall be responsible for promptly recording in writing each locker inspection and the record shall include the reason(s) for the search, persons present, objects found and the disposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Whenever the search of a student’s locker is prompted by a reasonable suspicion that the contents of a student’s locker create a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, the principal/assistant principal may open the locker without warning as soon as it is necessary to do so to discharge properly his/her duty to protect the persons and property in the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. The principal/assistant principal shall open a student’s locker for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer only upon presentation of a duly authorized search warrant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Title 22<br>Sec. 12.14*
**Searches of Automobiles**

School authorities may search any automobile driven onto school district property by a student and may seize any illegal materials if reasonable grounds for conducting the search exist. Seized materials may be used as evidence against the student(s) in disciplinary proceedings.

Prior to a search of an automobile, the student(s) shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. However, where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the automobile contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, the automobile may be searched without prior warning.

**Use of Drug Dogs**

School authorities may use, at their discretion, specially trained drug-sniffing dogs to conduct a generalized search of school district premises. Drug-sniffing dogs may be used at the direction of the Superintendent and consistent with school district policy.

School authorities will conduct the canine searches on the outside of the school-owned locker, and only search inside the locker if the canine alerts to a particular locker.

School authorities will conduct the canine searches on the outside of automobiles, and only search inside the automobile if the canine alerts to a particular automobile.

**Basic Procedures**

1. The Superintendent or building principal may request a canine search of lockers, storage areas and/or vehicles.

2. Dogs will only be used when under the control of the police trainer or designee.

3. Prior to a search, the student shall be notified, and given an opportunity to be present and permitted to call a parent or another representative. However, where school authorities have reasonable grounds to believe that the locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, a student’s locker may be searched without prior warning.

4. Parents and/or guardians of a student will be notified immediately upon determination that a student is in possession of a substance or object which is prohibited by law or district regulations.
5. Disciplinary proceedings including suspension, expulsion and/or arrest of the student may follow.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.14

Board Policy – 218, 218.1, 218.2, 222, 225, 227, 233