

Locker Searches

Code #446.01

In order to preserve the health and safety of Tri-County Area School District students and employees, to maintain order in the school building, and to maintain and preserve District property, it may be necessary and compelling to search student hall and gym lockers. Therefore, locker searches may be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that potentially dangerous materials, weapons, drugs, explosive devices, suspected stolen property or any other material considered to be in violation of law or Board policy are stored in the lockers. Periodically, or as needed, lockers may be inspected for housekeeping and maintenance purposes.

Any lockers assigned to a student are provided for the convenience of the student, to be used solely and exclusively for the storage of coats, caps/hats, footwear and school-related supplies and equipment. No student shall use the lockers for any other purpose. The Board retains ownership and control over all hall and gym lockers

Any school administrator, teacher, counselor, coach, chaperone, other support supervisor, staff person of the school district, or law enforcement official may be requested and/or involved in a locker search. Law enforcement may assist school officials in locker searches due to special training they possess in certain dangerous situations beyond the expertise and training of school officials

School officials may seize any and all items found in lockers which are considered dangerous, illegal, or found to be in violation of law and/or Board policy. Any unauthorized item found as a result of a locker search shall be seized and safeguarded by school officials or law enforcement until the appropriate authorities, Principal, District Administrator, Board or law enforcement have made a determination for the disposition of the confiscated item(s). Parents/guardians of the student that had items confiscated shall be notified of the circumstances surrounding the seizure and safeguarding of confiscated items. Unauthorized items may, at the discretion of the Administration, be returned to the student or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) after the necessary consequences and/or action have been taken by the Administration or the Board. Illegal items will be turned over to law enforcement and the student who is in possession of these items and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of this action.

Any time law enforcement wishes to conduct a locker search, a search warrant must be presented unless the student is under arrest. Whenever possible, a school

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official should be present during a law enforcement directed locker search.

Legal Reference: Section 118.325, Wisconsin Statutes.

Cross Reference: 445.00, Investigatory Interviews and Searches

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