

# **LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

POLICY: 226  
SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: SEARCHES  
ADOPTED: July 18, 1994  
REVISED: September 17, 2018

## **226. SEARCHES**

### **Purpose**

The Board 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.

### **Authority**

All lockers and cabinets are and shall remain the property of the school district. As such, students shall have only a limited expectation of privacy in their lockers and cabinets.<sup>1</sup>

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 or cabinet as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or district regulations, or which constitutes a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.<sup>2</sup>

The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker or cabinet when such employee has reason to believe that the locker or cabinet 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 schools.<sup>3</sup>

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Board authorizes the administration to conduct random, periodic or sweeping searches of lockers when the district has a compelling interest in

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<sup>1</sup> 24 P.S. 510.

<sup>2</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 12.14.

<sup>3</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 12.14

protecting and preserving the health, safety or welfare of the school population.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy which shall require that:

1. all requests or suggestions for the search of a student's locker or cabinet shall be directed to the school building principal who shall appoint a third party to be present at the inspection, based upon reasonable suspicion;
2. prior to a locker search, the student shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present;
3. the principal 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;
4. the 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 or cabinet in violation of law, Board policy, or school rule; and
5. the principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each locker/cabinet inspection which record shall include the reason(s) for the search, persons present, objects found and their disposition.

Whenever the search of a student's locker/cabinet is prompted by the reasonable suspicion that the contents of a student's locker/cabinet create an emergency, the principal may open the locker/cabinet as soon as it is necessary to do so to discharge properly his/her duty to protect the persons and property in the school.

School officials are authorized to search a student's person, personal possessions, or motor vehicle parked on school property when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is violating law, Board policy or school rules, or poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the school population.

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

## **Guidelines**

Students shall assume responsibility for maintaining the security of their lockers/cabinets.

Prior to an individual locker/cabinet search, the student shall be notified and be given an opportunity to be present. However, when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that a locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of the school population, student lockers/cabinets may be searched without prior warning.

Searches may be conducted during and/or after school by the administration and may include but not be limited to utilization of certified police K-9, metal detection units, or any device used to protect the health, safety and welfare of the school population.