Searches of Lockers, Desks and Storage Areas

Students may be assigned lockers for storing and securing their books, school supplies and personal effects. Lockers, desks and storage areas are the property of the district. Neither right nor expectation of privacy exists for any student as to the use of any space issued or assigned to a student by the school, and such lockers and other spaces are subject to search.

No student may use a locker, desk or storage area as a depository for any substance or object which is prohibited by law or school district policy, or which poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.

Any student's locker, desk or other storage area will be subject to search if reasonable grounds exist to suspect that the search will yield evidence of the student's violation of the law or school district policy. A search is mandatory if there are reasonable grounds to suspect there is a firearm in the locker, desk or other storage area. Any search of an individual student's locker will be conducted in accord with board policy governing personal searches.

All student lockers, desks or other storage areas may be searched at any time without prior notice and without reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of any particular student's violation of the law or school district policy. If the principal, assistant principal, or principal's designee conducting such search, develops a reasonable suspicion that any container inside the locker, including but not limited to a purse, backpack, gym bag or an article of clothing, contains evidence of a student's violation of the law or school district policy, the container may be searched according to board policy governing personal searches.

School officials will consult with local law enforcement officials regarding the advisability of a search on school premises by a law enforcement officer if evidence of criminal activity is likely to be found.

The superintendent will establish procedures for conducting searches of lockers, desks or other storage areas.

Cross Reference Policy 3232, Searches of students and their property

Legal References RCW 28A.600.210-240, School Locker Searches

WAC 392.400.215, Student rights

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