



Book	BHASD Policies
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Searches
Code	226
Status	Active
Adopted	June 28, 2004
Last Revised	March 2, 2020

Purpose

The Board acknowledges the need for safe storage of books, clothing, school materials and personal property and may provide lockers and storage areas for storage purposes.

Authority

It shall be the policy of the Board that all 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 and storage areas. Storage Areas may include but are not limited to gym, team locker rooms and band rooms, etc.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

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

The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker and storage area at any time, based on reasonable suspicion, for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being used improperly for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material that poses a hazard to the safety and order of the schools.[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board authorizes the administration to conduct random general searches of lockers and storage areas when the district has a compelling interest in protecting and preserving 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

The principal or designee shall be present whenever a student locker or storage area is inspected, based on reasonable suspicion.

The principal or designee shall open a student's locker or storage area for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer only on presentation of a duly authorized search warrant or on the intelligent and voluntary consent of the student.

The principal or designee shall be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found in a student's locker or storage area in violation of law, Board policy or school rules.

The principal or designee shall be responsible for promptly recording in writing each locker and storage area inspection; such record shall include the reason(s) for the search, persons present, objects found.

School officials are authorized to search a student's 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.

Guidelines

Students shall assume responsibility for maintaining the security of their lockers and storage areas.

Prior to an individual locker and storage area 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 or storage area contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of the school population, student lockers and storage areas may be searched without prior warning.

Searches conducted by the administration may include but not be limited to utilization of certified drug dogs, metal detection units, or any device used to protect the health, safety and welfare of the school population.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 510](#)

[2. 22 PA Code 12.14](#)

5. Pol. 218.1

6. Pol. 223

7. Pol. 227

8. Pol. 805

[9. PA Const. Art. I Sec. 8](#)

[10. U.S. Const. Amend. IV](#)

In re F.B., 555 Pa. 661, 726 A.2d 361, 368 (1999)

Commonwealth v. Cass, 551 Pa. 25, 709 A.2d 350, 355-56 (1998)

Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 129 S.Ct. 2633 (U.S. 2009)

226 Searches Procedure Attachment.docx (14 KB)