

EASTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: SEARCHES

ADOPTED: March 5, 2007

REVISED:

226. SEARCHES	
1. Purpose	The Board acknowledges the need for safe storage of books, clothing, school materials and personal property and may provide lockers for storage purposes.
2. Authority SC 510	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. No student may use a locker 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.
Title 22 Sec. 12.14	The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker 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.
3. Delegation of Responsibility	The Board authorizes the administration to conduct random general searches of lockers when the district has a compelling interest in protecting and preserving the health, safety or welfare of the school population.
Title 22 Sec. 12.14	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 is inspected, based on reasonable suspicion.

<p>Pol. 225</p>	<p>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 intelligent and voluntary consent of the student.</p> <p>The principal shall be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found in a student's locker in violation of law, Board policy or school rules.</p> <p>The principal shall be responsible for promptly recording in writing each locker inspection; such record shall include the reason(s) for the search, persons present, objects found and their disposition.</p> <p>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 student or the school population.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Students shall assume responsibility for maintaining the security of their lockers.</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p>	<p>Prior to an individual locker search, the student shall be notified and 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 may be searched without prior warning.</p>
<p>Pol. 227</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Weapons Search</u></p>
<p>Pol. 218.1</p>	<p>The district reserves the right to periodically conduct weapons searches of the entire school population of a building. In the interest of providing a safe learning environment, all students may be subject to search upon entering a school on any given day as a precondition to attending school.</p> <p>The searches will be conducted by school personnel and/or police officials. Students will be required to stand in a line before a table and empty their pockets while their backpacks, coats, purses, etc., are searched. Hand-held metal scanners may be utilized in the searches. In the event the search area becomes too crowded, students will be chosen at random or be checked before disembarking from school buses.</p>

In addition, this policy shall extend to students entering the building for activities such as dances and other extracurricular activities.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

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

Board Policy – 225, 227