

HEALTH AND SAFETY SEARCHES OF STUDENT LOCKERS BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

NEPN/NSBA Code: JFGA

PURPOSE:

The Regional School Unit 78 School Board believes that the presence in the school of items not connected to the school curriculum or extracurricular school activities creates a distraction from the fundamental educational mission of the school and may pose serious health and safety dangers to the school community. In order to promote a functional, safe, and effective educational atmosphere, the following student storage facility policy is hereby established.

DEFINITION:

The term “storage facility” includes but is not limited to all academic and athletic lockers; closets; bins; cloak rooms; team rooms; and desks.

SCOPE:

This policy is intended to govern only those “storage facilities” made available to or used by school students or students of other schools. This policy does not govern the rights of school administrators, faculty, teachers, or staff who are legal employees or independent contractors of the school, school district, municipality or state.

POLICY:

1. No Student Rights to/In Student Storage Facilities.

The school is under no legal or moral obligation to provide “storage facilities” for student use. Students have no inherent right to the use of or access to school “storage facilities”.

2. Storage Facilities are School Property.

All “storage facilities” made available to students by the school are, at all times, the property of, in custody of, and under the control of the school and school authorities.

3. Temporary Use of Storage Facilities by Students.

School authorities may, at their discretion, grant joint access or joint use of “storage facilities” to students for the **temporary** storage of **only** the following:

- 3.1 Textbooks, notebooks, supplies and equipment reasonably necessary for use in that student’s current school-approved curriculum;
- 3.2 Seasonal clothing reasonably necessary for that student to commute to and from school, and clothing equipment reasonably necessary to participate in current school-approved activities and sports;
- 3.3 Food reasonably necessary for the student’s consumption during that school day;
- 3.4 United States currency in any amount reasonably necessary to purchase food for the student’s consumption during that school day, or in an amount reasonably necessary for immediate payment by that student for school-approved purposes. However, in no event is the amount of United States Currency to exceed one hundred (\$100.00) dollars; and The student’s identification and keys;

PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS SHALL NOT KEEP CONTRABAND OF ANY KIND OR VALUABLE PERSONAL ITEMS IN ANY SCHOOL “STORAGE FACILITY”.

4. School Authorities Have Unlimited Access to Student Storage Facilities.

School authorities may, at any time and without prior notice, open, clean, inventory, inspect, relocate, remove, alter, destroy, search, dispose of or reassign any “storage facility” (whether locked or unlocked) and its contents.

5. Implied Consent by Students to Unlimited Access to Storage Facilities by School

Authorities. All students who use or accept the use of any “storage facility” shall thereby imply their consent to the shared or joint custody and control of that “storage facility” with school officials. A student who uses a school “storage facility” agrees to the opening, cleaning, inventory, inspection, relocation, removal, alteration, destruction, search, reassignment or disposal of that “storage facility” and its contents by school officials and without prior notice.

6. Locking Devices Used On Student Storage Facilities.

Only locks provided by the school may be used to secure student “storage facilities”. Students may **not** use any locking device other than that supplied by the school. The use of any locking device other than that supplied by the school may result in the forcible removal and destruction of such device. A student who accepts use of a student “storage facility” shall report the presence of any non-school-owned lock to the principal as soon as possible after its discovery. The school shall not be liable for any damage done to a non-school lock applied to a school “storage facility”. Students shall be liable for all damage to a school “storage facility” which reasonably results from the forcible removal of a non-school-owned lock.

Cross Reference: JF – Student Rights and Responsibilities
JFG – Searches

Adopted: February 27, 2007

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