



TO: School Board Members

FROM: Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: August 24, 2026

SUBJECT: Administrative Review of Policy 502, Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person

BACKGROUND

An administrative review of Policy 502, Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person, has been performed. This policy was last updated in September of 2023. The district's current policy was reviewed against MSBA's model policy and continues to match that language.

School District 197 reviews its policies on a 3-year cycle unless otherwise required by law. Typically, recommended policy changes are brought to the school board for three readings, with approval at the third reading. However, when the administration is recommending minor or no changes to the policy, it is labeled as an "administrative review." Consistent changes the board has asked to be applied to policies are considered minor. One example is using more inclusive language such as using "parent/guardian" instead of just "parent."

When labeled an "administrative review" the policy is placed on the consent agenda for a single reading with a recommendation to approve the policy as presented. As a reminder, board members always have the opportunity to remove a policy from the consent agenda to discuss it as part of the main agenda.

This policy was also reviewed using the district's Four-Way Equity Test. The policy does not inherently create barriers or limit opportunities and access for historically underserved or disadvantaged groups. We are committed to and engaged in work to reduce bias and prioritize equity so that this and other policies are not implemented in inequitable ways.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of School District 197 to approve Policy 502, Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person, as presented.