

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHOREWOOD

446.1

STUDENT SEARCH ACTIVITIES

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and healthy environment for all persons in school buildings and on school premises. School officials have a duty to investigate any suspicious activity or materials that could be harmful to the health and safety of students, school personnel, or property. This includes conducting search activities as outlined in this policy.

Locker Searches - A school locker is provided for the convenience of the student to be used solely and exclusively for the storage of the student's wearing apparel and school-related materials during the time the student is attending school. No student shall use the locker for any other purpose. The locker is assigned to a student but remains the property of the District. At no time does the District relinquish its exclusive control of the lockers. Locker searches may be conducted with reasonable suspicion **AND**/or without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Search of Students and/or Their Personal Belongings - District staff may conduct a search of a student or the student's personal belongings (e.g., backpacks) when there is reasonable suspicion that the student has in his/her possession items that violate the law, Board policies, guidelines or school rules. The search shall be conducted in a reasonable manner and must not be overly intrusive in light of the age and gender of the student and nature of the infraction. Searches of a student's person or personal belongings should be conducted outside the presence of other students to the extent possible. No school official shall conduct a strip search of a student.

Vehicle Searches - The District may search student-operated vehicles parked on school premises when there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of the law, Board

policies or school rules or the student has given consent to the search of the vehicle.

Search activities under this policy may be conducted by the Superintendent, a building principal/assistant principal, a school employee specifically designated by the Superintendent or building principal, ~~a school liaison officer~~, or other law enforcement official at the request of or in conjunction with school authorities.

School officials may remove any unauthorized item found as a result of a search. Items removed may be held by the school for return to the student's parent/guardian, or retained for disciplinary proceedings. If the unauthorized item found involves a possible law violation, the item shall be turned over to law enforcement officials. The student and his/her parent/guardian shall be notified **by the District** of any unauthorized item found that is turned over to law enforcement officials.

Students and their parents and guardians shall be informed of this policy annually through the student handbook.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.32 Wisconsin Statutes
118.325
948.50

Federal Laws
U.S. Constitution, 4th Amendment

CROSS REF.: 443.4, Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use
443.6, Student Use of Weapons
445, Student Interviews with Outside Agency
Personnel
446.2, Use of Canine Units in Search Activities

APPROVED: March 12, 2013