

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: SEARCHES

ADOPTED: March 10, 1997

REVISED: October 8, 2007

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>Pol. 218.1, 227</p> <p>2. Authority</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">226. SEARCHES</p> <p>The Board of Education is deeply concerned with the illegal use of controlled substances and alcohol among our young people and recognizes it as a major problem confronting our schools, our community, and our society in general.</p> <p>When the illegal possession, use, distribution, and sale of controlled substances and alcohol is coupled with the illegal possession of weapons and incendiary/explosive devices, it becomes the responsibility of the Board to take the necessary steps to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants of the school buildings as well as the buildings themselves.</p> <p>The Board, therefore, reserves the right to authorize school officials to conduct searches of student lockers, student vehicles and their persons when such an employee has reasonable suspicion that contraband is in the possession of the student and/or being concealed by said student.</p> <p>The reasonable suspicion standard shall include one (1) or more of the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possession of contraband which poses a threat to the health, welfare and safety of the students and/or the school. 2. Concerns indicating that drugs or other contraband are being transferred or sold within the school. 3. Specific detailed reasons for heightened concern as to dangerous or illegal activity within the school such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information received from unnamed students, teachers, and family members. b. Observations from students and teachers.
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<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Suspicious activity by the students such as passing small packages between themselves in the hallways.d. Increased use of the student assistance program for counseling.e. Call from concerned parents/guardians.f. Observation of students in possession of a large amount of money.g. Observation of increased use of pay phones by students.h. Observance of students exhibiting physical signs of drug use.i. Ongoing problems with either drug issues and/or related weapon/contraband issues and/or disciplinary problems dealing with same, or issue and/or disciplinary problems dealing with same.j. Other reasons (aforementioned list inclusive but not limited to, other reasons can be included). <p>Illegal and prohibited materials seized during a student search may be used as evidence against the student in a school disciplinary proceeding. Searches 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>Sniff Searches</u></p> <p>Sniff Searches - Searches involving the use of drug-detecting dogs to search school property.</p> <p>General inspections of school property with drug-detecting dogs may be conducted at the discretion of the Superintendent. Such searches shall normally be conducted after school hours unless the Superintendent feels a search during school hours is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the students.</p> <p>Approved searches of school property by drug-detecting dogs shall be made only by properly trained dogs and trained police handlers under the supervision of the principal.</p> <p>During a search using dogs, pupils and teachers shall be segregated from the search area, and the dogs shall not come into contact with pupils and staff.</p>
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A significant school district interest which would override or outweigh the intrusion into the limited privacy right of the students would include one (1) or more of the following circumstances:

1. Possession of contraband which poses a threat to the health, welfare and safety of the students and/or the school.
2. Concerns indicating that drugs or other contraband are being transmitted or sold within the school.
3. Specific detailed reasons for heightened concern as to drug activity within the school such as:
 - a. Information received from unnamed students, teachers, and family members.
 - b. Observations from students and teachers.
 - c. Suspicious activity by the students such as passing small packages between themselves in the hallways.
 - d. Increased use of the student assistance program for counseling.
 - e. Call from concerned parents/guardians.
 - f. Observation of students in possession of a large amount of money.
 - g. Observation of increased use of pay phones by students.
 - h. Observance of students exhibiting physical signs of drug use.
 - i. Ongoing problems with either drug issues and/or weapon/contraband issues and/or disciplinary problems dealing with same.
 - j. Other reasons (aforementioned list inclusive but not limited to, other reasons can be included).

The principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found illegally and improperly stored in the student's locker.

The principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each locker inspection. This record shall include:

1. The reasons for the search.
2. The persons present.
3. The objects found.
4. The disposition of substance, material, and/or objects confiscated.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

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

Board Policy – 218.1, 225, 227