

## 445 STUDENT INTERVIEWS AND SEARCHES

The School Board has charged school administrators with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. School personnel may search school property such as lockers used by students or the person or property, including vehicles when school personnel have reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a law or a school rule, in accordance with applicable law.

### STRIP SEARCH

No official, employee or agent of any school or the District may conduct a strip search, as defined by law, of any student.

### LOCKER SEARCHES

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Desks and lockers are public property and school administrators may make reasonable regulations regarding their use. At no time does the Williams Bay School District relinquish its exclusive control of lockers and desks provided for the convenience of students. Periodic general inspections of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time, without student consent, and without a search warrant. A showing of reasonable cause or suspicion is not a necessary precondition to a search under this paragraph. Students shall not have an expectation of privacy in lockers, desks, or other school property as to prevent examination by a school official.

The search may be conducted by the district administrator, building principal, school resource officer or a school employee designated by the district administrator or building principal.

Any unauthorized item found in the locker may be removed. Items removed from the locker may be held by the school for return to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student or retained for disciplinary proceedings or turned over to law enforcement officials. The adult student or parent/guardian of a minor student shall be notified of items removed from the locker and turned over to law enforcement officials.

The School District does not assume responsibility for the loss, damage or destruction of any property stored in the student lockers.

### VEHICLE SEARCH

In accordance with state law, it shall be the policy of the Williams Bay School District Board of Education that the School Board retains ownership and control of all real estate property owned by the District. At no time does the District relinquish control of its property. Students are permitted to park on District property as a matter of privilege, not of right. Searches of the interior of a vehicle located on District property including searches of a student's personal property located within the vehicle may be conducted when school personnel have a reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such searches may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Any illegal or unauthorized item suspected of being stolen found in a vehicle located on District property may be removed and given to the parent or guardian of the student, returned to its rightful owner, or forwarded to law enforcement of officials as the circumstances may warrant. Possession of illegal or unauthorized items on school property may result in disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion and/or law enforcement charges against the student responsible for bringing the vehicle onto District property, in possession of the vehicle or student(s) occupying the vehicle.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT SEARCHES

School personnel may contact a school resource officer or other law enforcement officer or agency to search a student at the direction of school personnel. Such searches would be subject to the “reasonable suspicion” standard applicable to school personnel.

The Board authorizes the use of specially trained dogs to detect the presence of drugs and devices such as bombs on school property under the following conditions:

- A. the presence of the dogs on school property is authorized in advance by the Superintendent, except in emergency situations, or is pursuant to a court order or warrant.
- B. the dog must be handled by a law enforcement officer or certified organization specially trained to safely and competently work with the dog.
- C. the dog is represented by the Sheriff or Chief of the law enforcement agency providing the service as capable of accurately detecting drugs and/or devices.

Where law enforcement officers participate in a search on school property or at a school activity pursuant to a request from the Superintendent, the search shall be conducted by the law enforcement officers at the direction of a District official. Law enforcement searches conducted independent of any District official request or direction shall be conducted based on standard applicable to law enforcement.

Any unauthorized item found may be held by the school for return to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student or retained for disciplinary proceedings or turned over to law enforcement officials.

The Superintendent shall provide students and staff with notice of this policy at least annually.

### LEGAL

REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 118.257, 118.32, 118.325, 120.13(1)

APPROVED: February 10, 2003

REVISED: October 9, 2017, November 22, 2021