

## WALLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

### SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

School lockers remain the property of the district even when used by pupils. Lockers are subject to administrative search in the interests of school safety, sanitation, discipline, enforcement of school regulations and to search by law enforcement officials on presentation of a proper warrant.

The principal or other official designated by the Board of Education may inspect lockers or other storage facilities provided for use by students as long as the parents and students are informed in writing at the beginning of each school year that inspections may occur. Parents will be requested to return a signed form indicating receipt of this information. The Wallington High School administration will execute at least one unannounced search of all student lockers at least once per marking period.

A pupil's person and possessions may be searched by a school official provided that the official has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will turn up evidence that the pupil has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Under no circumstances shall a search be conducted based solely upon an anonymous tip and/or a rumor that contraband is present. The extent or scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the pupil and the nature of the infraction. A physical search may only be conducted by a staff member of the same sex as the pupil and with administrative approval. Before instituting such a search, except in cases of emergency, the principal shall try to inform the parents/guardians and request their presence.

#### **Substance Abuse Searches**

Searches conducted by staff when there is suspicion that substance abuse laws and policies are being violated shall be based on the reasonable grounds required by this policy. When law enforcement officials conduct the search, the more stringent grounds required by law must be applied. See the Wallington Public Schools Substance Abuse and Control Policy.

#### **Legal References:**

N.J.S.A. 2a:4a-60 et.al. Disclosure of juvenile information;

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 penalties for disclosure.  
General mandatory powers and  
duties.  
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.2 Student lockers or other storage  
facility; inspection notice to  
students.  
N.J.S.A. 18a:54-20 Powers of board.  
N.J.A.C. 6:29-10.1et.seq. Safe & Drug Free Schools  
State in interest of T.L.O., 94 NJ33 (1983);  
New Jersey v. T.L.O.

Proposed:

Adopted: