

## 445.1 STUDENT LOCKERS

Lockers, though assigned to students, are the sole property of the Wisconsin Rapids Public School District. At no time does the District relinquish its exclusive control of such lockers. The right to inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted school boards and administrators and should be exercised so as to assure parents that the school, in pursuing its "in loco parentis" relationship with their children, will employ every safeguard to protect the well-being of those children.

Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to:

1. Protect each student's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion.
2. Emphasize that schools are educational rather than penal institutions.
3. Resolve any doubts in the student's favor.

The administration retains the right of periodic locker inspection. A locker may be searched as determined necessary or appropriate without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The search may be conducted by the district administrator, a building principal, an assistant principal, a police-school liaison officer or a school employee designated by the district administrator or building principal. Inspections for the location of drugs, narcotics, liquor, weapons, poisons, and missing properties are matters related to health and safety and may be regarded as "necessary or appropriate purposes for inspection.

The principal or his/her delegate shall assign student lockers wherever they are available. The student has the privilege of using this equipment for storage of personal property. Students shall not leave valuable articles in the lockers or in their desks. The school will not be responsible for the loss of articles by students.

The District shall include a copy of this policy in the student handbook that is distributed annually to each student enrolled in the District.

LEGAL REF.: Section 118.325 Wisconsin Statutes

CROSS REF.: 445.1-Rule, Guidelines for Locker Searches

APPROVED: November 11, 1974

REVISED: August 13, 2001