



Renaissance Academy

413 Fairview Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: 610-983-4080 Fax: 610-983-4096

No. 226
SECTION: Pupils
TITLE: Searches
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Searches

1 PURPOSE

The Board of School Trustees has acknowledged the need to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel. Therefore, school authorities may search a student, student lockers (226) or student automobiles under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search.

A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

2 AUTHORITY

Searches conducted by the administration 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.

PERSONAL SEARCHES

Students' person and/or personal effects (e.g. purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials.

If a pat down search of a student's person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official with an adult witness of the same sex as the student present.

If any search is to be conducted of a student's person, such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only upon the prior approval of the CEO or LS Principal for matters pertaining to elementary students or the US Principal for matters pertaining to secondary students or their designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which might be caused by following these procedures.

LOCKER SEARCHES

All lockers are and shall remain the property of Renaissance Academy; as such students shall have no exception of privacy in their lockers.

In addition, the Board recognizes that the storage of weapons, drugs, or unsanitary materials in lockers constitutes a health, safety and welfare concern to the school community. Balancing these competing interests, the Board places students on notice that their lockers may be periodically and randomly inspected and searched by officers, agents, and employees of Renaissance Academy and illegal or unsanitary materials shall be seized and may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary and other proceedings.

Students are encouraged to keep their assigned lockers closed and locked against incursion by other students, but no student may use a locker as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or school regulations, which constitutes a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or to the building itself.

The Board reserves the right to authorize its designated employees to inspect a student's locker at any time for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being improperly used for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material which poses a hazard to the safety and good order of the school.

Students shall be notified at least annually or more often if deemed appropriate by administration, concerning the contents of this policy. Students and parents shall be required to sign a waiver (policy review and consent form in the parent handbook) in order to have use of the school locker.

Prior to an individual locker search, the student shall be notified and be given an opportunity to be present. However, when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that a locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of the school population, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.

AUTOMOBILE SEARCHES

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. Students are expected to park in the designated school parking lot only after registering their vehicle with the school. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lot and inspections of the exteriors of student automobiles on school property. The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL MATERIALS

If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings will be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Title 22 Sec.12.14 SC 510

3 DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Principal or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

The Principal or designee shall be present whenever a student or his/her locker is inspected, based on reasonable suspicion.

The Principal or designee shall open a student's locker for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer only on presentation of a duly authorized search warrant or on the intelligently and voluntarily given consent of the student.

The Principal or designee shall develop procedure to implement search requests.

1. All requests for the search of students or vehicle shall be directed to the said administrator.
2. Once the search has been conducted the said administrator will make written documentation of any findings and contact a parent / guardian making them aware of the purpose and any findings.
3. The principal shall be responsible for the safekeeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found to be improperly stored in a student's possession in violation of law, Board policy or school rules. Such materials may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary proceedings.
4. The principal or designee shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each search; such record shall include the reason(s) for the search, persons present, objects found and their disposition.

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