

**SERIES 400
STUDENTS**

446

STUDENT SEARCHES

The Board of Education considers the maintenance of order and safety within the school environment to be of utmost importance. The Board recognizes that to provide for order and safety, it may be necessary for designated school officials to conduct reasonable searches of students while on school premises, on school buses or while participating in school-sponsored activities.

A student's person and/or personal belongings (e.g., purse, bookbag) may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized item, with an adult witness present, when feasible. A student or his/her belongings may be searched if:

1. There are reasonable grounds to suspect the search will reveal evidence of violations of the law, Board policy or school rules; and
2. The manner in which the search is conducted is reasonably related to the objectives of the search and is not overly intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

School officials, employees or agents shall not conduct a strip search of any student.

Anything found in the course of a search pursuant to this policy, which constitutes evidence of a violation of a particular law, Board policy or school rule or which endangers the safety or health of any person, shall be seized and utilized as evidence if appropriate. Seized items shall be returned to the owner if the owner may lawfully possess the items. Seized items that may not be lawfully possessed by the owner shall be referred to appropriate legal authorities or destroyed.

For purposes of this policy, "unauthorized item" means any item that might endanger the health or safety of students, school personnel or others; disrupt any lawful function, mission or process of the school; or at any time be described as unauthorized in school rules available beforehand to students.

Legal References: Section 118.32 Wisconsin Statutes
 118.325
 948.50
 U.S. Supreme Court Decision – *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (105 S. Ct. 733, 1985)
 Wisconsin Court of Appeals Decision – *In re L.L.* (90 Wis. 2d 585, 280 N.W. 2d 343, 1979)
 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision – *In the Interest of Angelia D.B.* (Case No. 95-3104)

Cross References: 443.4, Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use

443.5, Student Possession or Use of Two-Way Communication Devices
446.1 Student Locker Searches
446.2 Use of Canine Units
446.3 Use of Metal Detectors
831, Tobacco Use on School Premises
832, Possession or Use of Weapons

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