

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

File: JFGB-R

REGULATIONS - STUDENT LOCKERS

In order to implement the school corporation's policy concerning student lockers, the School Board adopts the following rules and regulations:

1. **Locks** - The school corporation will retain access to student lockers by keeping a master list of combinations and/or retaining a master key. Students may not use their own locks to prevent access to lockers by school officials and any unauthorized locks may be removed without notice and destroyed.
2. **Use of Lockers** - Lockers are to be used to store school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. Lockers shall not be used to store "contraband" which are items that cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules, such as drugs (other than medicine for which a student has a current prescription or common cold or headache medicine sold over the counter), drug paraphernalia, beverage containing alcohol, weapon, any volatile substance, bomb or explosive device, any acid or pungent or nauseous chemical, any library book not properly checked out or overdue, unreturned gym or athletic equipment, any wet or mildewing articles, or any stolen items. Students will be expected to keep their lockers in a clean and orderly manner.
3. **Authority to Inspect** - The school corporation retains the right to inspect lockers to insure they are being maintained in accordance with the conditions of Regulation B. All inspections of student lockers shall be conducted by the principal or his designee as designated in writing by the principal.
4. **Inspection of Individual Student's Lockers** - (a) The inspection of a particular student's locker will not be conducted unless the principal or his designee has a reasonable suspicion to believe that the locker to be inspected contains contraband. (b) Before a particular student's locker is inspected, the student (or students if more than one have been assigned to a locker), if present on the school premises, shall, where possible, be contacted and given the opportunity to be present during the conduct of the inspection unless circumstances require that the inspection be conducted without delay in order to protect the health and safety of others present on school premises. Whenever an individual student's locker has been inspected under this rule without the student's presence, the principal or his designee shall notify the student of such inspection as soon as possible thereafter.
5. **General Inspection of Student Lockers** - Inspection of a number of student lockers will be conducted if the principal or his designee, Superintendent, or Assistant Superintendent reasonably believes that such an inspection is necessary to prevent, impede, or substantially reduce the risk of: (a) an interference with school purposes or an educational function; (b) a physical injury or illness to any person;

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(c) damage to personal or school property; or (d) a violation of state law or school rules. Examples of circumstances justifying a general inspection of a number of lockers are:

- a. when the school corporation receives a bomb threat;
- b. when evidence of student drug or alcohol use creates a reasonable belief of an unusually high level of student use;
- c. at mid-term, end of grading period, and before school holidays to check for missing library books, lab chemicals, or school equipment; or
- d. where student violence or threats of violence creates a reasonable belief that weapons are stored in the lockers.
 - (1) If a general inspection of a number of lockers is necessary, then **all** lockers in the defined inspection area will be examined. Students will not necessarily be given the opportunity to be present while a general inspection is being conducted.

6. **Involvement of Law Enforcement Officials** -

- a. The principal or his designee, Superintendent, or Assistant Superintendent may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to assist the school administrators in inspecting lockers or their contents for purposes of enforcing school policies, only if such assistance is required to:
 - (1) search any area of the school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on school premises;
 - (2) identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section; or
 - (3) provide and handle a trained canine to detect the presence of marijuana and other controlled substances in student lockers and motor vehicles located on school premises.
- b. If a law enforcement official requests to inspect a student's locker or its contents, the principal shall require the production of a search warrant before allowing the inspection.
- c. If a law enforcement official requests the principal to make an inspection of a locker or its contents on behalf or in the place of such official, the request shall be denied. However, upon request of law enforcement officials, school

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officials may secure the locker and its contents for a reasonable period of time in order to permit the law enforcement official an opportunity to obtain a search warrant.

- d. A search warrant shall not be required in those instances which a trained canine has detected the presence of marijuana or another controlled substance in a student locker.
6. **Locker Maintenance** - Nothing in these rules shall affect members of the custodial or other staff who repair defective lockers or clean out or supervise the cleaning out of (a) lockers from time to time in accordance with a posted general housekeeping schedule; (b) the locker of a student no longer enrolled in the school; or (c) a locker during any vacation period which is reasonably believed to contain rotting items such as food, wet clothes, etc.
7. **Publication of Regulations** A copy of these regulations shall be provided to each student at the start of each school year or as soon as possible after the student's enrollment in the school. Copies of the regulations shall be available in the principal's office and other prominent places generally used for announcements to students.

Adoption Date: August 13, 1980; Revised: April 28, 1986; October 28, 1996

Legal Ref:

Cross Ref: