

Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School

Board of Trustees Policy

SEARCHES OF STUDENT, LOCKER, AND PERSONAL PROPERTY POLICY

The Board of Trustees ("Board") of the Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School ("Charter School") acknowledges the need for safe in-school storage of books, clothing, school materials and other personal property of the students and may provide lockers and cabinets for such storage. The Board also acknowledges the need for all students, staff and visitors to function within a safe and healthy school environment.

While lockers are issued to each student for use during the school day for storage of items related to the student's school day, all lockers are and shall remain the property of the Charter School. Students are encouraged to keep their assigned lockers or cabinets closed and locked against incursion by other students, but no student may use a locker as a depository for illegal or dangerous substances or objects which are prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or substances or objects which constitute a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the student body or pose a threat to the building itself.

No student is permitted, pursuant to the Charter School Code of Conduct, to keep on or about their person, illegal or dangerous substances or objects which are prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or substances or objects which constitute a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the student body or pose a threat to the building itself.

The Board authorizes its employees to inspect a student's locker, personal property, (bookbag, handbag, etc.) and/or person, when such employee has a reasonable suspicion to believe that storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any substance, object or other material which poses a hazard to the health, safety, welfare and good order of the school is being stored in or on the student's locker, personal property or person.

The CEO shall develop procedures to implement this policy which shall require:

1. All requests or suggestions for the search of a student's locker, personal property or person shall be directed to the CEO.

2. Students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present for a search of his/her locker and/or personal property except in the case where a reasonable suspicion exists that the locker/personal property contains materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of the students in the Charter School. The CEO/Principal shall appoint a third party administrator or staffperson to be present at the locker and/or personal property inspection. An administrator or staffperson of the same sex as the student being searched will be present in addition to another Charter School administrator or staffperson for a search of the student's person.
3. The CEO/Principal/Vice 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 locker, personal property or on his/her person.
4. The CEO/Principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each such inspection which record shall include the reasons for the search, persons present, object found, and their disposition.
5. The CEO/Principal shall be responsible for the safekeeping, confiscation and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found in a student's locker in violation of law, Board policy and/or Student Code of Conduct.
6. A random search may only be done if there is a compelling interest in protecting and preserving the health, safety or welfare of the Charter School population.
7. Illegal and prohibited materials seized during a student search may be used as evidence against the student in a Charter School disciplinary proceeding. Searches conducted by the Charter School may include, but are not limited to, metal detection units, or any device used to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Charter School population.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

References: - 24 P.S. Sec. 9-914-A; 22 PA Code §12.14