

Lockers

Is a student's locker private or confidential? Can I search it?

In the mind of a student, it probably is private and confidential. Students may view locker searches as a breach of privacy. However they and you must remember that MFIPPA only applies to personal information (privacy and confidentiality) as outlined above. Best direct search questions to your supervisory officer and/or any administrative procedures your board might have. Lockers are school property.

Principal's Best Practice: In everyday school life locker searches may be necessary. Notify students and parents by incorporating this within your school locker designation policy that the students sign. Remember that you should have "probable cause" when you demand that a locker be opened i.e. there is a significant matter that requires your involvement. Particularly at the secondary school level, indicate to your students that a disciplinary or legal matter (such as a search for weapons or drugs) is the reason for the search. Do not confuse this with a general, random locker search.