

Parking and Vehicle Search Policy

Preamble

The presence of drugs and weapons in public schools places students and school staff members at risk. The Board of Directors of MSAD # 3 intends to take steps to rid its schools of the threats posed by the presence of drugs and weapons, including inspection of its property for the presence of such contraband and disciplining those found in possession of drugs and weapons on school property. This policy is intended to clarify the power of administrators to look for contraband on school property.

Policy

Student parking on school property is a privilege, not a right. The school parking lot is the property of MSAD # 3, and remains under the control of the District. The District, through its Superintendent and building administrators, retains the right to patrol its parking lots. Any vehicle that is parked on school property is subject to parking lot patrols, undertaken by the Superintendent or by building administrators.

Parking lot patrols may include plain view inspections of the interior of the vehicles, as well as canine patrols (dogs trained to alert to the scent of drugs, alcohol, and/or weapons). Vehicles parked on school property may also be searched based on reasonable suspicion, which may be gained through parking lot patrols, or by any other means. A student whose vehicle is to be the subject of a “reasonable suspicion search” will be given the opportunity to voluntarily unlock the vehicle, including the trunk, the glove compartment, or any other area of the vehicle, to enable administrators to search the vehicle. Administrators may also search containers within the interior of the vehicle. In the event that a student parked on school property refuses to open his or her vehicle for a search of the interior based upon reasonable suspicion, that student will not be allowed to remove the vehicle from school property, and the student’s parent(s) shall be contacted and asked to provide access to the vehicle. If the parent(s) do not provide access to the vehicle, enforcement officers may be contacted.

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