

**527 STUDENT USE AND PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES; PATROLS, INSPECTIONS AND SEARCHES**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for use and parking of motor vehicles by students in Northfield School District locations, to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the health, safety and welfare of students and school personnel.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy of this school district is to allow the limited use and parking of motor vehicles by students in school district locations. This policy applies to all students in the school district.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Contraband” means any unauthorized item possession of which is prohibited by school district policy and/or law. It includes but is not limited to weapons and “look-alikes,” alcoholic beverages, controlled substances and “look-alikes,” materials belonging to the school district that the student should not possess, and stolen property.
- B. “Reasonable suspicion” means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school district policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official’s personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student’s suspicious behavior, a student’s age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.
- C. “Reasonable scope” means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Factors to consider in determining what is reasonable include the seriousness of the suspected infraction, the reliability of the information, the necessity of acting without delay, the existence of exigent circumstances necessitating an immediate search and further investigation (e.g., to prevent violence, serious and immediate risk of harm or destruction of evidence), and the age of the student.
- D. “School district location” means property that is owned, rented, leased, or borrowed by the school district for school purposes, as well as property immediately adjacent to such property that may be used for parking or gaining access to such property. A school district location also shall include off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district.
- E. “School official” means superintendent, building principal or their designee. For the purposes of this policy assistant principal and parking lot/security monitors are considered designees.

#### **IV. STUDENT PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES AT SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS**

- A. Students are permitted to park in a school district location as a matter of privilege, not of right. Students driving a motor vehicle to a high school campus may park the motor vehicle only in parking lots designated for student parking. Students may not park vehicles in driveways, on private property, or in other designated no parking areas.
- B. When there are unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property, school officials may:
  - 1. Require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move it off school district property.
  - 2. Provide for the removal of the vehicle, at the expense of the owner or operator.

#### **V. PATROLS, INSPECTIONS AND SEARCHES**

- A. Patrols and Inspections.

School officials may conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and other school district locations and routine inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
- B. Search of Interior of Student Motor Vehicle.

The interiors of unlocked or locked motor vehicles of students in school district locations, including glove or trunk compartments, may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness. Such searches may be conducted without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant. A student must unlock a locked motor vehicle or its compartments upon the request of a school official. Failure to do so is a violation of this policy. A school resource officer may assist in the search of a student vehicle at the request of a school official.
- C. Drug Dog Search - Purpose and Procedure.

The district will conduct periodic searches of the schools and their adjacent parking lots with the assistance of local and county law enforcement officers and drug-sniffing dogs. Each canine unit will be accompanied by at least one school official and, when possible, the school resource officer.

In the event of a positive identification by the canines, two school officials will conduct a search of the locker or vehicle in question. If the search reveals unauthorized or illegal items, school officials may ask that law enforcement finish the search of the locker or vehicle.
- D. Prohibition of Contraband and Interference with Patrols, Inspections, Searches and/or Seizures.

A violation of this policy occurs when students store or carry contraband in motor vehicles in a school district location or interfere with patrols, inspections, searches and/or seizures as provided by this policy.

E. Seizure of Contraband.

If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item and may turn it over to legal officials for ultimate disposition when appropriate.

F. Dissemination of Policy.

A copy of this policy is available on the district's website.

## VI. DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

The superintendent or their designee shall develop reasonable directives and guidelines to accompany this policy.

## VII. VIOLATIONS

A student found to have violated this policy and/or the directives and guidelines implementing it shall be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and/or to discipline in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion. In addition, the student may be referred to legal officials when appropriate.

Policy 527 Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections and Searches

Adopted: 01.28.2008; Updated: 05.2013, 07.11.2016, 08.08.2022

Board of Education

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659

Northfield, Minnesota

**Legal References:** U.S. Const., amend. IV  
Minn. Const., art. I, §10  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subds. 1 and 5 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)  
*New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325, 105 S.Ct. 733, 83 L.Ed.2d 720 (1985)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use/Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and Student's Person)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 712 (Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses)