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## **527R 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 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. The position of the school district is that a fair and equitable district-wide student motor vehicle policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience, will maintain order and discipline in the schools, and will protect the health, safety and welfare of students and school personnel. 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," overdue books and other materials belonging to the school district, 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.



#### **IV. STUDENT USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS**

Students generally are not permitted to use motor vehicles during the school day in any school district location. Students may use motor vehicles on the high school campus during the school day only if there is an emergency and permission has been granted to the student by high school principal to use a motor vehicle. Students are permitted to use motor vehicles in school district locations outside of the school day only on the high school campus.

As a convenience to students and families, students age 14 years old or older who have completed a snowmobile safety course, are permitted to drive snowmobiles to Rockford Middle School or Rockford High School as a means of getting to and from school. Students are permitted to use snowmobiles in school district locations outside of the school day only.

#### **V. STUDENT PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS**

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 in the parking lot designated for student parking only. Students will not park vehicles in driveways, on private property, or in parking lots designated for use only by staff or by the general public.

Students age 14 years old or older who have completed a snowmobile safety course and are driving a snowmobile to a middle school or high school campus, may park the snowmobile in the spaces designated for snowmobile parking only. Students will not park snowmobiles in driveways, on private property, or in parking lots designated for use only by staff or by the general public.

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

School officials may conduct routine patrols of school district locations and routine inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. In addition, the interiors of motor vehicles of students in school district locations 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.

##### **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 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 will be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and to discipline if the student refuses to open a locked motor vehicle under the student's control or its compartments upon the request of a school official.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. Dissemination of Policy

A copy of this policy will be printed in the student handbook or disseminated in any other way which school officials deem appropriate.

**VII. DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES**

The superintendent is granted authority to develop and present for school board review and approval reasonable directives and guidelines which address specific needs of the school district related to student use and parking of motor vehicles in school district locations, such as a permit system and parking regulations. Approved directives and guidelines shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

**VIII. 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.

**IX. ADDENDUM**

The following policies apply to High School students who drive motor vehicles to and from school. These policies will be in effect during the regular school day.

1. Each vehicle parked in the school parking lot must be registered with the school district.
2. Upon registration, a student parking permit will be issued for \$25.00. This permit must be displayed on the rearview mirror of the vehicle. The permit will



- be valid for one (1) school year. Temporary permits are available at the high school office for visitors and students who qualify.
3. The first three rows of the student parking lot will be reserved for 12<sup>th</sup> grade (senior) parking. Twelfth grade students will be issued a unique parking permit to display on their vehicles.
  4. Students who have not registered their vehicles will receive a warning on the first violation. Repeat violations may result in the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.
  5. The maximum speed limit in all school driveways and parking lots is 15 MPH.
  6. The East parking lot is designated for student parking.
  7. The Front parking lot is designated for staff and visitors.
  8. The row closest to county Road 50 of the East lot is reserved for adults using the community center.
  9. All vehicles must be parked between the lines.
  10. Emergency access roads and spaces must remain open.
  11. Parking in a handicapped space or fire lane is a serious offense. The first violation will result in a warning; the repeat violations may result in the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense and/or loss of driving privileges.
  12. Students may not go to the parking lot during the school day unless leaving the school property with approved early dismissal or permission from the principal.
  13. Students must drive on school property with extreme caution and consideration. Any evidence of reckless or careless driving will result in the suspension of driving privileges.
    - First violation – a two-week suspension of driving privileges.
    - Second violation – a four-week suspension of driving privileges.
    - Third violation – revocation of driving privileges.
    - Driving after revocation of driving privileges is a serious offense resulting in disciplinary action. The vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.
  14. Parking or driving on the school lawn is a serious offense and will result in the loss of driving privileges and charges to repair damage to the lawn.
  15. Repeated and/or serious violations of this policy will result in filing of a complaint with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department.

**Legal References:** U.S. Const., amend. IV  
Minn. Const., art. I, §10  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (Independent School District Specific Powers and Duties)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.38 (Hearing)  
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

**Cross Reference:** 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)