



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

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for student use and parking of motor vehicles on school district property, to maintain order and discipline, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and visitors.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Parking and use of motor vehicles on school property is a privilege, not a right. Students are allowed to park only in designated areas after purchasing a parking permit.

Students may not use motor vehicles during the school day unless authorized by school administration.

Unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property may be towed at the owner's expense.

The school district may conduct routine patrols of parking lots and inspections of vehicle exteriors without notice, consent, or a warrant. Interiors of student vehicles may be searched when school administration has reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school policy. Any such search will be conducted within a reasonable scope based on the circumstances.

If contraband is found, it may be seized and turned over to law enforcement. Students who violate this policy may lose parking privileges and be disciplined according to ISD 200 Policy 506 (Student Discipline).

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Contraband" means any unauthorized item prohibited by law or school policy, including but not limited to weapons and look-alikes, alcohol, controlled substances and look-alikes, overdue school materials, and stolen property.
- B. "Reasonable Suspicion" means grounds for believing a search will reveal evidence of a violation of law or school policy. This may be based on a school administrator's observation, a reliable report from a student, parent, or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age, or record of conduct both in and out of school, or other reliable sources of information.
- C. "Reasonable Scope" means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to its purpose, considering factors such as the seriousness of the suspected violation, reliability of 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 student's age.

- D. "School District Location" means property owned, leased, rented, or used by the school district for school purposes, including adjacent areas used for parking or gaining access to such property. This also includes off-site locations where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district, including all school sponsored and approved activities, athletic events, field trips, and functions.

IV. STUDENT USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Students are generally not permitted to use vehicles during the school day. Exceptions may be granted by school administration for emergencies or special circumstances.

V. STUDENT PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Parking is allowed only in areas designated for student use. Unauthorized vehicles may be:

- A. Ordered to move or be removed from school property by school administration, or
- B. Towed to the nearest safe location at the owner's expense if unattended.

VI. PATROLS, INSPECTIONS, AND SEARCHES

A. Exterior Searches

School administration may conduct routine patrols of parking lots and inspections of vehicle exteriors without notice, consent, or a search warrant.

B. Interior Searches

The interior of a student's vehicle, including compartments such as the trunk or glove box, may be searched when school administration has reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or district policy. The search will be conducted within a reasonable scope, meaning its intrusiveness will be reasonably related to the purpose and seriousness of the suspected violation. Such searches may be conducted without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant.

Students who refuse to unlock or allow inspection of a vehicle under their control may lose parking privileges and face disciplinary action.

C. Seizure of Contraband

If a search yields contraband, school administration will seize the items and may refer the matter to law enforcement.

D. Interference

Students may not store or carry contraband in vehicles or interfere with patrols, inspections, searches, and/or seizures as provided by this policy.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy will be published in the student handbook or otherwise distributed as deemed appropriate by school administration.

VIII. VIOLATIONS

Students who violate this policy may lose parking privileges and be disciplined in accordance with Policy 506 (Student Discipline), which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion. In addition the student may also be referred to law enforcement when appropriate.

- 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)
 Minn. Stat. § 123B.38 (Hearing)
 New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
- Cross References:** *ISD 200 Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)*
 ISD 200 Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)
 ISD 200 Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
 ISD 200 Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)
 ISD 200 Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

Policy Reviewed: 11.14.2025
Policy Adopted:
Policy Revised: