

Missoula County Public Schools

STUDENTS

3231

Searches and Seizure

For the safety and supervision of students in the absence of parents, to maintain discipline and order in schools, and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, school authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students and their personal effects, as well as School District property. Such authorization includes, but is not limited to, the use of canines for searches of school property, personal property and motor vehicles located on school property.

Students and Their Personal Effects

An administrator (or his/her designee) may search a student and/or a student's personal effects (e.g., purses, book bags, motor vehicles, etc.) when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner which is reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. When feasible, the search should be conducted outside the view of others, including students, in the presence of an adult witness and by a certificated employee or administrator of the same sex.

School Property

School property, including, but not limited to, desks and lockers, is owned and controlled by the District and may be searched by school authorities at any time. School authorities are authorized to conduct area-wide, general administrative inspections of school property without notice to or consent of the student and without reasonable suspicion.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated, or is violating, either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities

Policy History:

First reading to PN&P Committee on August 29, 2006

First reading to Board of Trustees on September 12, 2006

Posted for Public Comment until October 18, 2006

Second reading to PN&P Committee on October 25, 2006

Adopted on: November 14, 2006

Revised at PNP on: January 27, 2010

Adopted on: March 9, 2010