

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.: 921
Section: COMMUNITY
Title: SEARCH OF NON-STUDENT AND/OR NON-STAFF
AUTOMOBILES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
Date Adopted: 11/21/05
Date Last Revised:

**921 SEARCH OF NON-STUDENT AND/OR NON-STAFF AUTOMOBILES ON
SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The Board acknowledges the need to ensure the safety of the school environment and its students. When there is reason to believe that the contents of an automobile belonging to non-students or non-staff that is present on school property pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of others then a search of the automobile is authorized under the conditions set forth in this policy.

1. Searches shall be based upon a “reasonable suspicion” that there is a sufficient probability that evidence of illegal conduct will be found in the automobile, including a) an identification of specific observations or knowledge, b) the rational inferences that were drawn from all available observations and facts considered as a whole and c) an explanation of how the available facts and rational inferences provided a particular and objective basis for the suspicion when they were combined with the special background, training and experiences of the school official who initiated or requested the search.
2. All requests for searches shall be directed to the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee whenever possible.
3. Reasonable attempts to obtain consent to the search from the automobile’s owner will be made whenever possible.
4. A third party shall be present for all automobile searches whenever possible.
5. When based on reasonable suspicion and necessary to ensure the safety of the school, the District reserves the right to use more aggressive measures for searching such automobiles, such as the use of trained dogs.
6. Searches shall not exceed the scope of the concerns that prompted the initiation of the search unless other evidence of illegal activity or activity posing a threat to the school environment is uncovered incidental to the initial search. In such cases, the evidence of the additional illegal or threatening activity may be explored.
7. Notice of this policy shall be posted in all school parking areas.