

SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS

Searches by Staff

The North Middlesex Regional School Committee grants the administration the right of inspection of students' school lockers which is inherent in the authority granted by law to school committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own property and school property.

Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of a student, a student's belongings, or a student's automobile may occur if there is reasonable suspicion that the student has violated or is violating the law or the rules of the school. The search will be conducted in a manner reasonably related to its objectives and will not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction, in order to protect the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school district to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

Interrogations by Police

The schools have jurisdiction over students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities. It is the responsibility of the school administration to make an effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogations by law enforcement officials. Therefore:

1. When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or periods of extracurricular activities, the school Principal or their designee will be present when possible. An effort will be made to contact the student's parent or guardian so that the responsible individual may be notified of the situation.

2. If custody and/or arrest are involved, the Principal will request that all procedural safeguards, as prescribed by law, be observed by the law enforcement officials.

SOURCE: MASC February 2019

ADOPTED BY THE NMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

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NMRSD first vote: December 7, 2020

NMRSD second vote: January 4, 2021
