

Adopted: 1974
501.02

Saint Paul Public Schools Policy

Revised: 6/17/2008; 7/16/2024

**501.02 STUDENT VEHICLE USE: PARKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES,
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," and replicas, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances 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.

IV. STUDENT USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS

- A. Students may drive to and from school but generally are not permitted to use motor vehicles during the school day in any school district location.
- B. Students are not allowed to visit their vehicle between class periods unless permission has been granted to the student by the school principal or designee.
- C. Students may use motor vehicles during the school day only if:
 - 1. The student needs to attend an off-campus college course.
 - 2. The student is participating in school-related activities to which school-sponsored transportation is not provided (i.e. internships).
 - 3. There is an emergency and permission has been granted to the student by the principal or designee to use a motor vehicle.
 - 4. There is a specific situation or circumstance (i.e. medical appointment, funeral) and permission has been granted to the student by the principal or designee to use a motor vehicle.

V. STUDENT PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS

- A. 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 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.
- B. When there are unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property, school officials may:
 - 1. require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move it off school district property; or
 - 2. if unattended, provide for the removal of the vehicle, at the expense of the owner or operator, to the nearest convenient garage or other place of safety off of school district property.

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 by school staff will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness and will only occur when the student and/or their parent/guardian is present to provide access to the vehicle, unless an immediate search is necessary due to an imminent threat to student, staff, or community members' life and/or safety and the student and/or their parent/guardian cannot or will not consent to the search. 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 or their designee is granted authority to develop 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. These 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.

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: SPPS Policy 413.01 Chemical Use and Abuse
SPPS Policy 413.00 Drug-Free Workplace
SPPS Policy 504.00 Drug-Free Schools
SPPS Policy 903.00 Dangerous Weapons, Firearms
SPPS Policy 506.06 Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person
SPPS Policy 506.00 Student Discipline
SPPS Policy 506.02 Student Discipline: Expulsion & Exclusion
SPPS Policy 506.03 Student Discipline: Suspension