

## **Bigfork School District #38**

### **STUDENTS**

3231

#### Searches and Seizures

To maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. Methods of search may include, but are not limited to, visual search, canine searches, video and audio recording equipment, and metal detectors.

#### School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search all school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school such as lockers, desks, parking lots, buses, and school vehicles, as well as personal effects left there by the student, without notice or consent of the student. Buses or other vehicles chartered or contracted by the school are also subject to search. This applies to student vehicles parked on school property. Building principals may require each high school student, in return for the privilege of parking on school property, to consent in writing to school searches of his or her vehicle and personal effects therein, when reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing exists.

The Superintendent may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons or other illegal or dangerous substances or material, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

#### Students

School authorities may search the student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession when there is reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating 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.

#### Field Trips

Any student who participates in any field trip or extra-curricular activity must sign a consent form authorizing district personnel to search any baggage, purses, or other containers in the possession of or under the control of the student prior to leaving on a field trip or other off-campus activity sponsored or participated in by the District. No student shall be permitted to participate in any field trip or extra-curricular activity unless the consent form is signed and dated by the student and at least one parent or guardian.

#### 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 will be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action will be taken. When appropriate, such evidence will be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish procedures for conducting searches and/or inspections for general and specific purposes.

Policy History:

Adoption Date: November 3, 1994

Revision Date: February 14, 2001

Revision Date: May 15, 2003