

The Board of Trustees of St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 is committed to providing students and employees with orderly and secure schools and work places that are free of drugs and weapons. To that end, the Board prohibits the presence of drugs, controlled substances, weapons of any type, explosive devices, alcohol, non-authorized medication or any other intoxicate (as those terms are defined by State or federal law or District policy) on District property or at any District-sponsored event. This prohibition applies to employees, students, patrons, visitors and any other person on District property.

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. These searches can occur both in school and during school-sponsored activities. To that end, the need to search is based on the right and responsibility that school officials have to maintain discipline and to ensure the proper functioning of the educational process. Students have a reduced expectation of privacy at school and during school-sponsored activities than at their home. Additionally, students should have little or no expectation of privacy in their use of school property, such as desks and lockers.

All persons are responsible for the security of any vehicle, locker, desk, bag or other item they possess or bring onto District property or to a District-sponsored event. No person shall possess, place, keep or maintain any article or material that is prohibited by law or District policy in items, lockers, vehicles, desks, or bags assigned to them or under their control while on District property or at a District-sponsored event.

In conjunction with other District security measures, a dog may be used to sniff the air around lockers, desks, bags, items or vehicles that are on District property or at a District-sponsored event. A dog's alert constitutes reasonable suspicion and only the dog's official handler will determine what constitutes an alert by the dog. If the dog alerts on a particular item or place, the person having the use of, bringing onto District property or responsible for that place or item will be called to the scene to witness the inspection. The inspections shall be unannounced and may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent or his or her designee.

In the event the dog alerts on a locked vehicle, the owner or person bringing it onto District property shall be asked to open it for inspection.

Refusal to open the item for inspection may result in referring the matter to law enforcement officials, disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or termination of employment for employees and suspension or expulsion for students and loss of parking privileges on District property for students. Visitors or patrons may be banned from District property.

For health and safety reasons, a general inspection of school properties such as lockers and desks may be conducted on a regular basis or when reasonable suspicion reveals

that the search will disclose evidence of illegal possession or activity. Any items contained in a locker shall be considered to be the property of the student to whom the locker was assigned. Notice of this Policy shall be given to all students.

School officials may search individual students and their property when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or the rules of the School District or the school.

**SEIZURE OF PROPERTY**

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the School 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 Cross Reference:**

Policy 502.08	Campus Policy and Student Vehicles
Policy 504.05	Use of Motor Vehicles

**Legal Reference:**

**Policy History:**

Adopted:	08/20/1975
Amended:	06/10/1996
Reviewed:	07/01/2008
Reviewed:	05/12/2014
Amended:	05/12/2014