

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT

BARNARD · BRIDGEWATER · KILLINGTON · PITTSFIELD · POMFRET · READING · WOODSTOCK

CODE: C21

SEARCH AND SEIZURE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Searches of School Property

Each Mountain Views School District school (hereby referred to as “school”) retains the right to search its property at any time. Desks, lockers, textbooks, computers, and other materials or supplies loaned by the school to students remain the property of the school, and may be opened, inspected and searched by school employees at any time. Students should have no expectation of privacy with respect to school owned property.

Search and Seizure of Student and Student Property

Searches of students, persons, personal effects, and vehicles ^[1] may be conducted where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting at the time of initiating the search that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of law or of school rules.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that all searches of students and all searched and seizures of student property are conducted in a manner that complies with state and federal constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures of students and student property in schools.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall develop written administrative rules and procedures to ensure:

1. the implementation of and adherence to this policy;
2. distribution of this policy to students and parents at the beginning of each school year including but not limited to publication of this policy in the student handbook;
3. a protocol for parents and/or students to challenge the legality and reasonableness of any search or seizure by the school, and to air grievances of any perceived violations of their rights;
4. annual training for all school officials on this policy including updates and changes.

Date Warned: June 5, 2023

Date Adopted: August 7, 2023

^[1] Schools may obtain blanket permission to search vehicles that students drive to school and park in the school parking lot by requiring parents and students to consent to such inspections as a condition of obtaining a permit for parking on school grounds. Without consent of this sort, school officials who wish to search student vehicles need reasonable suspicion that the search will provide evidence of a violation of law or school rules.