SCHOOL SEARCHES

Section I: DESKS AND LOCKERS

Desks and lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers issued to them by the school. School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections at any time for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of individual lockers or desks may occur when there is a reasonable basis to do so and in those cases, the student or a third party shall be present.

Section II: AUTOMOBILES

The school retains authority to inspect student automobiles used as transportation to school on school property. When a school official, other than a sworn law enforcement officer, has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside a student vehicle, the student may be required to open the automobile, including the trunk, for further inspection.

Section III: SEARCH OF STUDENTS

A student’s person and/or personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority, other than a sworn law enforcement officer, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. If a pat-down search of a student’s person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness present. It will be an extremely rare situation that requires a more intrusive search of a student’s person than a pat-down. Only if extreme emergency conditions exist, and only upon prior approval by the District Counsel, shall a more intrusive search be conducted by a school official, other than a sworn law enforcement officer. If such a search is necessary, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness of the same sex present.

Section IV: NOTICE OF POLICY

Students will be provided notice of the School Search Policy by having the policy placed in the student handbook and distributed to all students. A copy of the policy will also be posted in the principal’s office or other prominent place in the school.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi