

MR. JOSEPH PYE
Superintendent



Dorchester
School
District Two

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The safety of our students and staff is the number one priority in all 25 Dorchester District Two schools. For learning to take place, it is essential that we provide an environment where students feel safe and secure. District and school leadership along with the Dorchester School District Two Board of Trustees continue to explore all options to advance and improve the safety of our schools.

One such preventative measure recommended by law enforcement professionals is the random use of search dogs to deter the use and possession of contraband on our campuses. The school district feels it is extremely important to proactively address the presence of items that would compromise the safety of students. The three law enforcement agencies that provide services to our schools have met with district leadership and principals to discuss the implementation of search procedures in accordance with legal guidelines. The decision was made to begin the random searches after the Thanksgiving break, focusing primarily on the three high schools.

Random searches will be conducted under the leadership and authority of the school principal and law enforcement using certified search dogs trained to locate a variety of illegal items by smell. At no time will students come into contact with the search dogs while they are engaged in search activities. The students will be moved from a classroom or common area prior to the dogs entering the area. The dogs will be under the command and control of their law enforcement handlers at all times, and the search teams will include school administrators.

As a part of recent board policy revisions, the school district has updated Policy and Administrative Rule JIH and JIH-R Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests to be in alignment with recent legal rulings and best practices. This policy can be reviewed on the district website under District Information, School Board-Recently revised and adopted board policies.

Dorchester School District Two is committed to taking proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff. Parents/guardians will be informed by their child's school on the day searches occur on campus. If you have comments or questions, please contact your child's school in writing. We appreciate your support in these endeavors.

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