

HIGH SCHOOL PARKING POLICY

PURPOSE:

The safety and education of young drivers is becoming a nationwide priority as the incidents of young drivers involved in traffic accidents and fatalities are occurring far too frequently. The North Kingstown School Department has joined community partners in an effort to specifically address this issue through enhanced education and awareness of our students and parents.

Families are not as safe on the roads in North Kingstown as they could be. Information gathered from the students' Health & Wellness Surveys showed that many students drink alcohol and drive. Parking spaces at the high school are a privilege; earning that spot through the completion of a student driving safety program will help ensure a safer North Kingstown.

PHILOSOPHY:

The problem is that young people are given access to cars and may not have been given the guidance and guidelines necessary to ensure that they are driving safely. If not properly monitored by their parents, more young people may make poor decisions, including drinking alcohol and driving. The risks involved with impaired driving includes accidents, and, at its worst, loss of life. Students who do not drive responsibly increase the chance that they and others will be hurt.

The cost to the individuals, the families, and the community is financial, including medical and property bills, emotional distress, and educational setbacks, in that students would lose school time and privileges, such as participation in athletics and extracurricular activities. Increased law enforcement costs may also result from young people drinking and driving. Keeping the community a safe place to live is a priority.

The community prides itself as a desirable place to live and work. Being safe on the roads is an important factor to consider for people deciding whether or not to settle in North Kingstown. Any policy that increases the chances that individuals drive safely improves the quality of life and reputation of the community.

Therefore the School Committee policy requiring students to obtain a high school parking lot permit will assist families to establish and maintain guidelines around responsible driving through encouraging discussions as well as mandating a driving contract.

POLICY STATEMENT:

North Kingstown School Committee establishes requirements in order to obtain a parking permit for the high school parking spaces which include the following:

- 1) Incoming seniors with at least 17 credits, who are up to date with their E-Portfolio requirements, may apply for a parking pass at the end of their junior year, providing that the student has a valid license, proof of insurance and space is available.

- 2) If space is available, the student must watch a video approved by the Wellness Coalition and the High School Principal.
- 3) The student must sign a parking permit contract.
- 4) After October 1st of a school year, juniors and seniors will be allowed to apply for any available parking space, provided they have a valid license and proof of insurance, and they fulfill requirements #2 and 3.
- 5) Parking is a privilege which may be revoked by the Building Principal.

First Read: 4/26/2011

Second Read: 6/14/2011

Adopted: 6/14/2011