



MSD Decatur Township: Clear Bag Policy

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year forward, all backpacks carried by students in grades K-12 during the school day must be clear plastic without any color. Clear backpacks are optional for Pre-Kindergarten students.

- MSD Decatur Township will provide each student with one clear (non-colored) backpack at the beginning of the school year.
- Students participating in an extracurricular activity are permitted to carry non-transparent bags to store items pertaining to their particular activity (i.e. band, athletics, etc.).
- Upon entry into the school, all non-transparent extracurricular activity bags must be stored in designated areas determined by each school.
- All bags are subject to search.
- The maximum size for non-transparent bags that students will be permitted to carry during the school day, such as pencil bags and purses, will be 9 inches by 6 inches.
- Non-transparent lunch bags/boxes no larger than approximately 10 inches x 7 inches x 4 inches are permitted to be carried.
- Students are only permitted to carry two non-transparent bags that fit the above specifications.
- Clear totes, clear purses, clear pencil pouches/boxes and transparent plastic bags are allowed.
- Mesh backpacks are not allowed.
- Large visual design obstructions are not allowed. However, one logo no larger than approximately 3 inches x 3 inches is permitted.
- No fabric, wallpaper, stripes, cardboard, etc., or any material used to conceal the contents of the backpack, is permitted.



https://m.media-amazon.com/images/W/IMAGERENDERING_521856-T1/images/I/81+W68b5ucl._AC_UY1000_.jpg

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: When will the clear backpacks be distributed?

A: Each school will designate and communicate a distribution date, such as Back to School Night or the 1st Day of School.

Q: What are the size specifications for the clear backpack?

A: There are no size specifications for the clear backpack.

Q: Are mesh backpacks allowed?

A: No. Mesh backpacks are not allowed. Students are permitted to only use clear bags.

Q: Can the backpacks have mesh pockets?

A: Yes. Mesh side pockets are allowed on the backpack.

Q: Can the front pocket of the backpacks have a mesh organizer?

A: Yes. A mesh organizer inside the front pocket is allowed.

Q: Will backpacks with padded backs be accepted?

A: No. Backpacks must have clear visibility through all dimensions excluding the bookbag bottom.

Q: Are backpacks that are not clear plastic allowed?

A: No. Backpacks with plastic of any shade of color are not allowed. Only fully clear backpacks are permitted.

Q: Are stripes allowed on the backpacks?

A: No. Stripes in any location are not allowed on the bookbag.

Q: Can the backpack straps have color?

A: Yes, the backpack may have straps with color.

Q: Are leather reinforcements on the corners of the backpacks allowed?

A: Yes. Leather reinforcements on the corners are permitted.

Q: Are company or trademark logos allowed on the front of the backpack?

A: Yes. Small company and school logos are allowed, but large logos, monograms, or other visual design obstructions are not.

Q: Will athletic/spirit bags and instrument cases, which are not clear, be allowed on campus?

A: Yes, however, these bags must be stored as soon as the student arrives at school. They must be placed in fine arts designated areas or athletic designated areas as assigned by school instructors.

Q: Are lunch bags/boxes permitted?

A: Yes. Non-transparent lunch bags/boxes no larger than approximately 10 inches x 7 inches x 4 inches are permitted to be carried.

Q: Can multiple 6 inch x 9 inch bags be carried in schools?

A: Yes. Students must limit non-transparent 6" x 9" bags (lunch boxes, purses, pouches) to two bags, regardless of whether they are carried inside or outside of the backpack.

Q: Are clear totes, clear purses and transparent plastic bags allowed?

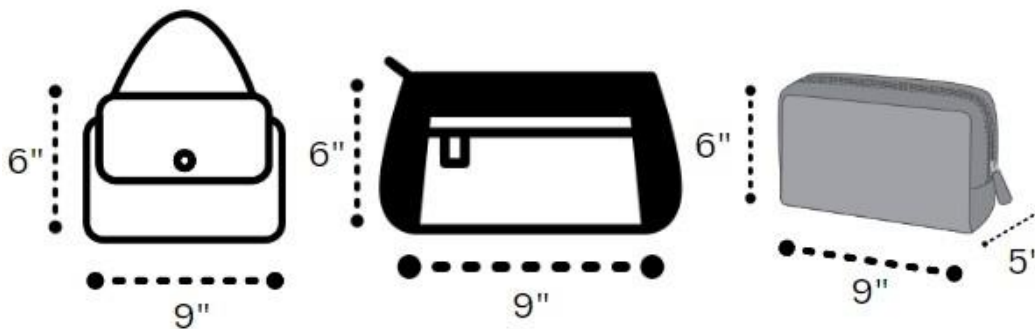
A: Yes. Clear totes, purses and bags are allowed.

Q: Can I line the inside of the backpack?

A: No. Fabric, wallpaper, cardboard, or any other material that conceals the contents of the backpack is not permitted.

Q: Where do I purchase a clear backpack?

A: Clear backpacks may be found on Amazon, Walmart, Target and other retailers online or in stores. All clear backpacks individually purchased must be within the specifications outlined in these FAQs.

Examples of 6"x 9" non-transparent bags:**Examples of 10" x 7" x 4" or smaller lunch bags/boxes:**