



Department: Programs and Services
Section: Office of the Director

Search of Student:

1.0 The following may constitute reasonable grounds for search of a student and/or his/her possessions:

- Information received from one or more student(s) and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) considered to be credible;
- Observations of a teacher, staff member, or principal/designate;
- Other sources deemed to be credible by principal/designate.

In deciding whether or not to conduct a search the compelling nature of the information and the credibility of the source must be assessed by the school authorities, who are in the best position to assess the information received.

After having completed a search of a student, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should be notified as to the nature, purpose and result of the search. Information regarding the source of the information that led to the search must be kept confidential.

2.0 The search itself must be carried out in a reasonable and sensitive manner. The search of a student and his/her personal effects will be conducted by principal/designate and in the presence of a second staff member. Where practical, the principal/designate or the staff member should be the same sex as the student in question.

3.0 A search shall not be carried out at the request of the police or any other authoritative body but the decision by the principal/designate to conduct a search may, at the discretion of the principal/designate, be based on information received from the police or other public authorities. Under the Education Act a principal is not required to act as the agent of the police and should not act as such but should be present when the police exercise or attempt to exercise police authority on school property or towards a student at school or at a school sponsored function.

4.0 Where there is believed to be an imminent threat to the safety of students and staff, or the risk of the same, principals/designates can exercise their authority to search at any time. Where deemed appropriate the principal/designate may call in police or other appropriate public authorities.

5.0 After any search it may be necessary to involve the police in any further investigation.

6.0 In order for the police to carry out a search, where an arrest is not made, they require a warrant.

Search of Locker:

Students and parents/guardians must be informed that school lockers are the property of the school board and carry no rights of privacy by the student, as against the school board and its employees, and are subject to periodic search and inspection at the discretion of the principal/designate of the school or other school board authorized employee.

Superintendent Approved: November 3/08

Ref: BP 406.1

Monitoring Date:

Revised: