

	Students IV-B-7
STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD <i>Excellence in Lifelong Learning</i> POLICIES AND GUIDELINES	Student Activities and Welfare Search and Seizure in Schools
	Adopted: October 4, 2004 Revised: February 2, 2006 September 1, 2010 October 7, 2015
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SEARCH AND SEIZURE

POLICY STATEMENT

The Strait Regional School Board believes that students have the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure at school. The Board also recognizes and supports, pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act, the school principal/designate's paramount duty to provide a safe learning environment. As a result, a student's expectation of privacy is limited.

The school principal/designate is permitted to search a student's locker, possessions and person provided,

- ◆ there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a breach of school regulations or discipline; and
- ◆ that evidence of the breach will be found in the location or on the person of the student being searched.

GUIDELINES - SEARCH OF STUDENTS

1. The following may constitute reasonable grounds for search of a student and/or his/her possessions:
 - ◆ Information received from one student and/or parent/guardian considered to be credible;
 - ◆ Information received from more than one student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s);
 - ◆ Observations of a teacher, staff member, or school principal;
 - ◆ Other sources deemed to be credible by school administration.

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 given.

After having completed a search of a student or his/her possessions, the parents/guardians should be notified as to the nature and purpose of the search. Information regarding the 'credible source' must be kept confidential.

2. The search itself must be carried out in a reasonable and sensitive manner.
3. A search **shall not** be carried out at the request of the police or any other authoritative body. As per the Education Act, a principal cannot act as an agent of the police.

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4. Where there is an imminent threat to the safety of students and staff, principals can exercise their authority to search at any time.
5. However, after the search, it may be necessary to involve the police in any further investigation.
6. In order for the police to carry out a search, they require a warrant.

GUIDELINES - SEARCH OF LOCKERS

1. Students must be informed that school lockers are the property of the school and, as such, are subject to periodic inspection.