

## **STUDENT LOCKER SEARCHES**

### **Background**

The Division expects students to model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behavior when using school-provided locker space. Students understand the contents of their locker are subject to search in situations where the safety and security of the school is a concern.

### **Procedures**

1. School lockers will be rented or available on the condition that the school reserves the right to search and repossess the locker at any time without notice. The school will publish its locker policy in its student handbook, including the provision that lockers are subject to searches without notice under the direction of the Principal.
2. If the school plans to implement school-wide locker searches, this should also be clearly stated in the school policy. It must be clarified within the policy that all the student acquires is the right to use the locker and the lock, both of which remain the property of the Division, subject to the guidelines above. It is desirable that students and an adult be present in the event that their lockers are searched.
3. If suspected of wrongdoing, a student may be directed to empty pockets, knapsack, purse, etc. However, physical searches of students are not to be undertaken by school personnel. If, in the opinion of the Principal, a physical search should be conducted, a law enforcement officer shall be contacted.
4. In the event that a locker search is to be conducted as a result of reasonable belief that the affected student is engaged in illegal activity the Principal will conduct this search and only contact the police if it is an emergent situation.
5. If as a result of a locker search under section (3) above, and police are contacted, the provisions of [Administrative Procedure 352 - Student Investigations and Searches by External Agencies](#) shall apply.
6. Notwithstanding any police involvement the school may proceed to deal with the matter under [Administrative Procedure 355 - Student Discipline and Suspension](#) as may be appropriate.
7. If contraband items are found, police should be contacted. Staff are not authorized, by law, to be in possession of contraband items and these items need to be reported as

soon as they are found. These items must be turned over to police at the time of the incident.

Reference: [Education Act](#) Section 11, 33, 52, 53, 197, 222  
[Canadian Criminal Code](#)  
[Youth Criminal Justice Act](#)

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