



**PERSONAL SEARCHES**

**Category:** Health and Safety

**Effective:** August 2017

**Policy Statement**

It is the school's responsibility to maintain a positive and safe environment for staff and students. It is essential that guidelines be followed concerning searches of persons, possessions, lockers, or desks.

Lockers and desks are school property and remain, at all times, under the control of the school. Individuals have no expectation of privacy therein. Searches of lockers or desks may be undertaken for any reason, at any time, without notice and without consent.

**Procedures**

Communication of Policy

The Principal has the responsibility for communicating this policy to all staff, students, parents/guardians.

1. Search of an individual's desk:
  - a. Searches of lockers or desks may be undertaken for any reason without student consent. Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of the contents of their lockers and desks. The student's parent/guardian must be fully informed once action is taken under this policy.
  
2. Search of an individual's coat (worn or not) and/or possessions other than clothing being worn:
  - a. Only the Principal or designate may authorize a search of a student's coat or possessions, other than clothing being worn.
  - b. A search of a person's coat or possessions, other than clothing being worn, is authorized if school employees have reasonable grounds to believe that the student has violated or is violating the law, school or district policy and the search could result in the discovery of evidence.
  - c. Such searches may only occur if the Principal or designate and one other employee are present.
  - d. All searches shall be conducted in a reasonable, sensitive manner which is minimally intrusive in light of all surrounding circumstances. (Minimally intrusive may include the emptying of pockets or removal of shoes.)



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3. Searches of the Person including clothing being worn:  
Such searches are not to be conducted by school authorities but students may be detained by the Principal or designate, under close surveillance, if there are reasonable grounds to believe a search is required. Law enforcement officials should be contacted to conduct the search. Protocol as outlined in [Policy ASD-W-703-2: Interviews of Students by Law Enforcement Agencies](#).
4. Searches Initiated by Law Enforcement  
School officials are obligated to cooperate with law enforcement officials who allege they have probable cause to conduct a search.

**Reference**

- New Brunswick [Education Act](#)
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development [Policy 703: Positive Learning and Working Environment](#)
- [Policy ASD-W-703-2: Interviews of Students by Law Enforcement Agencies](#).