

DIVISION: Programs

EFFECTIVE: October 3, 2014

NAME: Student Search and Seizure

APPROVED: October 3, 2014

AMENDED: January 26, 2019

POLICY STATEMENT

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (the “District”) authorizes the search of students and their belongings when a school administrator has reasonable grounds to believe that they may be concealing weapons, alcohol, cannabis or cannabis-containing substances, controlled substances, toxic substances, or other prohibited substances and objects. In the event that illegal or prohibited substances/objects are found, either on the student’s person or in their belongings, the District authorizes the seizure of those substances/objects to ensure a safe school environment.

BACKGROUND

The District is committed to providing safe and caring school environments for all persons. School administrators must be able to respond quickly and effectively to problems that arise in schools in order to protect students and staff from harm, and to ensure orderly teaching and learning environments.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students within the District.

DEFINITIONS

Weapon: A weapon, arm or armament is any object or device used with intent to inflict damage or harm.

Alcohol: Alcohol includes any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor.

Cannabis and Cannabis-containing Substances: Actual plant material from the Cannabis plant containing, or thought to contain, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), including weed, hashish and/or hashish oil. Cannabis-containing substances may include oils, ointments, or a wide variety of edible products.

Controlled Substances: Controlled substances include narcotic drugs, prescription drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in the Controlled Drug and Substances Act, including analogues and look-alike drugs.

Toxic Substances: Toxic substances include glue, cement, aerosol paint, or other substances used or possessed with the intent of inducing intoxication or stimulation of the central nervous system.

POLICY DIRECTIVES

1. Searches of students and/or their belongings are authorized only when a school administrator has reasonable grounds to believe that they may be concealing illegal or prohibited substances or objects.
2. Searches of students and/or their belongings shall be conducted in a sensitive and minimally intrusive manner, in accordance with the administrative procedures/regulations outlined for this policy.
3. Student searches shall require the presence of two or more persons.
4. In conducting searches, school administrators will accommodate for gender and be conscious of the inherent dignity afforded all persons.
5. When the school administration collects evidence that reveals possession of any of the aforementioned items in this policy, or other evidence of criminal intent, the matter must be reported to local police authorities and to the Director's office at the earliest opportunity.