

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE NO. 314

PROTOCOL RESPECTING SEARCH OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Background

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools and the respective local detachment of the RCMP are working together to ensure that Red Deer Catholic students feel safe in their schools. Together, we have developed a common statement to remind parents and students of our commitment to ensure that our schools are safe and caring educational environments.

Be advised that all schools in Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools are committed to implementing the Protocol Respecting Search of School Property. It states:

- The Board is committed to dealing with illicit substances, prohibited goods, or dangerous materials in the school environment in a vigorous way.
- As a general principle, any illegal or questionable activity is incompatible with the statutory requirements of the Education Act and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Possession of, or trafficking in illicit substances, and possession of prohibited good or dangerous materials in any form is an act incompatible with the Education Act. The Education Act states that students are to comply with the rules of the school and respect the rights of others.
- If random searches of the school, conducted by school administrators and/or the RCMP, including certified detection dog handlers, resulting in detection of unacceptable or illegal goods, students may be suspended or recommended for expulsion from the school.
- If a student is found in possession of an illicit substance, prohibited goods, or dangerous materials, parents or legal guardians will be notified.

Student lockers belong to the school, not to the student. Since students have been made aware that school lockers are the property of the school, the locker is subject to search at any time, without notification, by any personnel associated with the school or by persons representing other authorities, including the police.

Procedures

1. School administration may conduct administrative lockdowns and/or conduct unannounced searches of the school.
2. School administration may ask students to remove the contents of their jacket, backpack or other personal possessions.

3. RCMP personnel assisted by certified Detection Dog Handlers in cooperation with school personnel may conduct unannounced searches of the school.
4. A designated school-based individual, generally the school administrator, will accompany RCMP personnel in any search of the school.
5. If any illicit substance, prohibited goods or dangerous materials are detected within school property as a result of a search of the school, school administration and/or the RCMP will deal with the appropriate student.
6. In all cases, the parents or legal guardians of an affected students will be notified of salient facts that have come to light as a result of any contravention of the Protocol.
7. Appropriate discipline, which can include suspension or recommendation for expulsion, will be enacted.

References:

Sections: 31, 256, 257 of the Education Act