

## **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to empower a principal or vice-principal to conduct reasonable searches and seizures on Board property or during school sponsored activities.

Any search will be done pursuant to the appropriate requirements of the Education Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act.

## **Rationale**

It is essential that the safety of the students be ensured. An orderly environment is necessary to encourage learning. Reasonable rules of conduct must be in place and enforced in schools.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board supports its administrative staff in the maintenance of law, order, and decorum on the premises of its schools and facilities, and educational trips for students.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is entrusted with the care and education of students and it is essential that the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board be able to react swiftly and effectively when faced with a situation that could unreasonably disrupt the school environment or jeopardize the safety of the students. Schools must be able to respond to grave and difficult problems such as possession of weapons, illicit drugs, and alcohol.

The principal has the obligation to provide a safe, orderly environment for students and staff. On occasion students may be suspected of having illegal or unsafe materials such as drugs, alcohol, weapons or stolen property in their possession. In such cases, a principal, or designate, must have flexibility to use reasonable searches to maintain a safe school.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board also has a duty to foster the respect for the constitutional rights of all members of society including students. Learning respect for constitutional rights is part of the education of our students and is best taught by example.