No. 5470
SECTION: STUDENTS
TITLE: SEARCHES

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OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

It shall be the policy of the Oxford Area School District that searches shall be permitted and conducted, consistent with the fourth amendment of the Constitution of the United States, to uncover illegal or forbidden substances, materials or objects. Searches are to be conducted when there is reasonable suspicion that illegal or forbidden substances, materials or objects, including but not limited to weapons and drugs, are on the premises or in the possession of students and that the conduct of such searches will reveal evidence of a violation of law or school policy.

For purposes of this policy searches shall be permitted and conducted to uncover illegal or forbidden substances, materials or objects on a student's person, in a student's locker, in any student possession, vehicle or in any area of the school building or school grounds. Further-more, it shall be the policy of the Oxford Area School District that random searches and the use of outside agencies, resources, personnel and tactics shall be permitted when there is reasonable suspicion that such searches will reveal evidence of a violation of law or school policy.

This policy shall apply to students on school premises during regular school hours, while attending school events or activities during and after regular school hours, or while being transported to or from school in school district vehicles.

By this policy, the conduct of the following types of searches shall be authorized:

A. Body search--The search of a person to include pat down, the emptying of pockets, the removal of garments but only to the lowest layer of outer clothing. This type of search will only be conducted when there is reasonable suspicion that the search of that individual student will reveal evidence of a violation of law or school policy.

B. Search of possessions--The search of items brought to school by students which may contain illegal or forbidden substances, materials or objects. This might include but is not limited to such items as book bags, gym bags, purses, wallets or any object which might be used to conceal or carry items. This type of search will only be conducted when there is reasonable suspicion that the search of an individual student's possessions will reveal evidence of a violation of law or school policy.

C. Locker search--The search of school lockers, desks, book cases and apparatus available to students for their use. Lockers, desks, book cases and alike are considered the property of the school district, not

the property of the student, and subject to search at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without search warrant.

D. Sweep searches--The search of all or a portion of a school building incorporating school or nonschool resources to detect the presence of illegal or forbidden substances, materials or objects, conducted without notice and without a search warrant.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures for the implementation of this policy. In all cases care must be exercised to insure that all search activity undertaken does not violate protected rights.