

## **Administrative Procedure 352**

### **ACCESS TO STUDENTS POLICE OFFICERS - OUTSIDE AGENCIES STATEMENTS AND SEARCHES**

#### **Background**

From time to time it will be necessary for the Principal or a member of the School staff to question a student regarding a breach of the School rules or an incident that occurred within the School. Under specific circumstances a search of student lockers may be required. Additionally, members of outside agencies, such as Police Officers, Child and Family Service Workers, may wish to interview a student at School during the School day.

School officials are expected to cooperate with the Police or other appropriate civilian authorities in the execution of their duties. However, school officials also have a responsibility to function in the place of the parent during School hours.

#### **Procedures**

1. The Division strongly encourages investigating officers and officials to conduct their investigation of students away from the School, unless they deem such interviews essential to proper investigation, or unless the interview is part of a Violence Risk Threat Assessment (see Elk Island VTRA Protocol).
2. Interviews and searches will be conducted in a manner that ensures student individual rights are protected.
3. No person except the parent or legal guardian of the student, law enforcement officers or child welfare workers shall be permitted to interview a student on school premises.
4. Interviews of Students by Law Enforcement Officers in Schools
  - 4.1. When law enforcement authorities find it necessary to visit a School to interview a student, they shall report to the Principal, provide appropriate identification of themselves and make known the purpose of their visit.
  - 4.2. Prior to the interview taking place, attempts are to be made to contact the parents or guardians, except in cases where the investigation has to do with alleged child abuse/neglect by the parent. If possible, parents are to be present at the interview.
  - 4.3. If the parent is present, there is no need for the Principal or any other personnel to be present. The child or the parent may request the Principal to remain, but the Principal has no obligation to do so once a parent/guardian is present. Once a