

ECS Search and Seizure Policy and Procedures Statement (Policy #3090)

To protect the safety and welfare of students and personnel and maintain discipline on school property and at all school-related events, Elyria Christian School (ECS) has the right to perform physical searches of students to determine whether they pose a danger to themselves and/or others. The Administrators or designated staff members may search a student's pockets, purse, backpack, gym bag, or other personal property; student lockers, desks, or other school property; or student automobiles under the conditions described below.

No student may possess any illegal substance, object, or contraband that constitutes a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of any person or persons on school property. Contraband is all substances or materials prohibited by school policy or state or federal law, including but not limited to controlled substances, drugs, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, vaping devices, guns, knives, weapons, or incendiary devices. All items deemed illegal, illicit, disruptive or a general nuisance to the educational process may be seized by staff. Storage, return, or destruction of such items shall be at the discretion of the Administration, subject to legal impoundment.

A student's person or personal effects (e.g. backpack, purse, pockets) may be searched by a staff member to determine whether the student is in possession of contraband. Searches may be performed without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant.

All personal searches will be performed in a manner that is respectful of the norms of decency and the emotional maturity of the student. An administrator or their designee of the same sex will conduct the search in private, with another adult witness of the same sex present, and only with the approval of the Lead Administrator or Academic Administrator. The student's parents will be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible. Under no circumstances will a body or strip search be permitted unless conducted by law enforcement personnel.

A student's locker or desk is the property of Elyria Christian School and is at all times under the control of the school. School authorities may perform general inspections of lockers and desks at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. Students are not permitted to lock or otherwise impede access to any locker except with a lock provided by or approved by the school. Unapproved locks will be removed and destroyed.

Students are permitted to park on ECS grounds as a matter of privilege, not of right. Permission to park on school property is granted only after the student driver, the owner of the vehicle, and the student's parent or guardian have signed written consent to allow search of that vehicle upon school's request.

School authorities may perform periodic patrols of student parking lots and conduct exterior inspections of student automobiles on school property. Interior searches of student vehicles can occur to determine if contraband or illegal materials are contained inside. Refusal to allow access to a vehicle at the time of the search will be cause for terminating the privilege of parking on school property without further hearing.

The Search and Seizure policy and Procedures Statement will be disseminated to all parents and 7-12 grade students annually. A current school year signed copy of agreement with this policy must be on file in the school office before a student is allowed to attend class at ECS.

I have read, fully understand, and agree to abide by Elyria Christian School's Search and Seizure Policy and Procedures Statement.

Student 7-12 grade _____ **Date** _____

Parent or Guardian _____ **Date** _____