



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Signs Legislation Prohibiting Strip Searches by Teachers, Principals or other Education Personnel

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation that prohibits teachers, principals or any other education personnel from conducting a strip search or body cavity search of a pupil under any circumstances.

Previous law made searches permissible in cases where school officials had reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search would reveal evidence that the student had violated the laws of the school. This law was drafted in response to an April 1995 incident where a third grade class in Plainfield was searched.

The Governor signed the legislation to provide increased protection for children's rights, safety and welfare. Under the new law, any such searches would have to be conducted by police authorities.

The legislation, A-1167, was sponsored by Assembly Members Neil Cohen (D-Union) and Jerry Green (D-Middlesex).

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