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**EDG 647: SCHOOL LAW**

**Written Assignment - Legal Scenario Analysis – 100 Points**

Students will select a scenario from a choice of three options provided by the instructor.  The student will prepare a written response and analysis of the situation. Thinking in the role of a building administrator, students will be expected to identify key issues, outline a course of action and decision-making process, and thoroughly explain the legal basis for their actions and the outcome. The completed analysis should be 3 to 5 pages (double-spaced) in length and serve as evidence of the student’s ability to apply the law to real-life situations. Students should select one scenario from the following three choices:

1. A student told his middle school teacher that she saw another student, Michael, put a long knife in his backpack. The teacher reported the situation to the principal. The principal asked to look through Michael’s backpack to which Michael replied, “Sure, because I don’t have a knife.” The principal searched through the backpack and did not find a knife. The principal opened Michael’s wallet that was contained in the backpack and discovered an envelope with a substance that turned out to be marijuana. The principal turned over the substance to the police and Michael was charged. Consider such questions as whether or not the search was constitutional or if the principal needed the student’s permission to search his backpack. What would the principal’s jurisdiction been if he had suspected that the knife was being concealed in the student’s school locker?
2. Administrators at a local middle school have recently implemented a new uniform policy for all students. A group of unhappy students decides to protest the decision. Students begin making public comment at school board meetings. The students then design and create a protest button that they distribute to students during the school day and many wear them in school. The buttons depict a red slash through a Swastika with the wording “No School Uniforms.” Consider such questions as whether or not the administrators may prohibit students speaking out about the new policy and if the principal has the legal authority to ban the wearing of the buttons.
3. As a high school current events teacher, Mrs. Yardley invites one community member per week to visit the class to speak about community issues. This week, a local organic farmer is coming to talk about environmental issues. The principal, after hearing about the planned speaker, tells Mrs. Yardley that the farmer cannot come to speak to her class because she is a well-known activist against a planned hazardous waste incinerator. The principal insists that this speaker will cause unwanted controversy in the school. Consider such questions as whether or not the inclusion of the speaker is appropriate for the students and if the principal’s decision to not permit the speaker was reasonable and appropriate.