

VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

The Board believes that schools are purposeful places where students and staff must be able to work, learn and play without the threat of physical or psychological harm. They are characterized by sensitivity and respect for all individuals, an environment of non-violence, clear student behavioural expectations and disciplinary policies that are enforced consistently and fairly. The Board acknowledges its responsibility to ensure schools provide secure learning environments which are safe from any form of threat, violence or intimidation.

The intent of the Board is to provide a school environment free of violence, intimidation, and weapons by:

1. setting standards which demonstrate to students that acts of violence will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences;
2. prohibiting students from possessing weapons or engaging in violent acts on school property, and at school events, through the use of appropriate and effective consequences;
3. providing positive school discipline programs that encourage students to act responsibly;
4. providing effective curriculum programs that teach appropriate behaviour and social skills.

The Board considers any act of violence, intimidation or the possession or use of a weapon by anyone on school property and at school events to be a serious threat to both students and staff. It authorizes Principals and Vice-Principals to impose appropriate consequences upon any individual threatening the safety and welfare of students and/or staff.

Specifically,

1. The possession by students of weapons*, potentially dangerous articles, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited on all school property during school activities and while travelling to and from school.
2. Serious breaches of conduct that threaten the safety and welfare of students and staff will be referred directly to the Superintendent or designate(s).
3. Principals may invoke section 177 of the School Act to remove from school property any person who disturbs or interrupts the proceedings of the school or any official school function.
4. School administrators will involve the police when criminal acts involving weapons, violence and/or intimidation occur.

5. Within the resources of the District, every effort shall be made to support the needs of victims of violence and/or intimidation.

*Weapons are defined as any instrument which can be used to injure, harm or intimidate another person.

Legal Reference: Section 6, 26, 85, 177, School Act