
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. Schools are characterized by sensitivity and respect for all individuals, an environment of non-violence, clear student behavioural expectations and disciplinary practices that are enforced consistently and fairly. The Board recognizes that acts involving weapons, violence and/or intimidation may have an impact on the emotional welfare of students who are victims of, or witnesses to those events. The Board acknowledges its role in providing secure learning environments which are safe from threats, 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 any threats and/or acts of violence and intimidation will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences;
2. prohibiting students from possessing weapons or engaging in violent acts on school property, at school sponsored functions and activities through the use of appropriate and effective consequences;
3. providing school discipline programs that encourage students to act responsibly;
4. providing programs that teach students appropriate behaviour and social skills.

The Board authorizes Principals and/or Vice Principals to impose an appropriate level of consequences upon any student threatening the safety and/or welfare of others.

Specifically:

1. The possession by students of weapons, including replica weapons, is prohibited on all school property, and during school sponsored functions and activities.
2. Students who commit serious breaches of conduct will be referred directly to Level Three of the suspension process for resolution by the Student Suspension Review Committee.
3. Principals and/or Vice-Principals may invoke Section 177 of the School Act to prohibit any person from school property who disturbs or interrupts the proceedings of the school or any official school sponsored function or activity.
4. Principals and/or Vice-Principals will confiscate any weapon found in the possession of a student, contact parent or guardian and may involve the police when acts involving weapons, violence and/or intimidation occur.
5. Student Threat Assessment Protocol:
A student threat assessment will be initiated by the school's multi-disciplinary Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) team when behaviours include, but are not limited to serious violence, or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet/Social Media threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire-setting.

References: Section 26, 85 and 177, School Act
Administrative Procedure 355 (Suspension of Students)

Board Minutes

October 1993 Volume 35 Page 297 Policy II-B-84 Violence, Intimidation and Possession of Weapons
Volume 45 Page 4 Policy II-C-11 Student Placement
September 2003 Volume 45 Page 98 Policy II-C-11 Student Placement
June 2005 Volume 47 Page 78 Policy 18 Violence, Intimidation and Possession of Weapons
June 2007 Volume 49 Page 80
April 25, 2017 Board Meeting