

**SECTION 3000 - STUDENTS
VIOLENCE & WEAPONS**

The Division strives to ensure a safe environment for its students, employees, and other people within its facilities.

All employees have the responsibility to take those actions deemed necessary to maintain an environment free from physical violence, verbal abuse, or the threat of physical assault. Teachers and administrators have the authority to maintain order and discipline in the school.

The Division will not tolerate harmful, threatening, or actual acts of violence, or other unlawful acts on its property or in its buildings, or vehicles, and will ensure that action be taken against offenders of this policy as appropriate:

- a) under the Public Schools Act, including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or
- b) under the Criminal Code and other penal statutes.

As required by Provincial statute (PSA 96(f)) a teacher shall "...seize or cause to be seized and take possession of any offensive or dangerous weapon that is brought to school by a pupil and hand over any such weapon to the principal who shall notify the parent or guardian warning him that the pupil may be suspended or expelled from school;..."

The school principal is expected to exercise their judgment in taking the appropriate action in any given circumstance involving violence and weapons. All such incidents are to be immediately reported to senior administration.

Expulsion from school, by Board Motion, will be considered in cases where students commit harmful, threatening, or actual acts of violence, or other unlawful acts, including bringing weapons to school.

Expulsion - an exclusion from school by Board Motion for a period longer than six weeks. (Exclusion from school for a period under six weeks is defined as a suspension and does not require Board motion.)

Weapon(s) - as any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, any device designed as a weapon or through its use capable of producing bodily harm or death, or any device or instrument which is used to threaten or cause bodily harm or death.

Physical assault - the act of striking or touching a person with a part of the anatomy or an object, a kick, or a spit, with the intent of causing hurt or harm.

Verbal abuse - when an individual has an outburst (often accompanied by loss of rationalization, venting, screaming, swearing or threats) directed at an individual or group.

Cross Reference:			
Board Informed: June 2011	Procedure Review Date: September 2023	Procedure Revision Date:	Page 1 of 1