

Schoolcraft Learning Community

Violence Prevention and Weapons Policies and Procedures

1.0 Purpose. Students are the first priority of the Schoolcraft Learning Community and School Administration are committed to providing an emotional and physical environment that promotes learning and allows every student to develop mentally, physically and spiritually to their fullest capacity. Violence, harassment, intimidation, gang activity and other disruptive behaviors are absolutely incompatible with this overriding goal.

2.0 Scope and Application. These policies and procedures shall apply to all students, faculty and staff of the Schoolcraft Learning Comm. They shall apply to the school zone as defined in Section 3.9 as well as to all school related activities regardless of where they occur, and they shall be effective both during and after school hours.

3.0 Definitions. For the purposes of this policy, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings given them herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

3.1 "Corporal punishment" means physical punishment and includes any kind of punishment and includes any kind of punishment inflicted on the body, such as spanking, slapping, punching, pushing, or pinching.

3.2 "Dangerous weapon" means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or any weapon that is capable of producing death or bodily harm, any flammable liquid or other device or instrument that in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or bodily harm.

3.3 "Destructive device" means:

3.31 Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, or similar device; or

3.32 Any type of weapon that will, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant.

3.4 "Expulsion" means an action taken by the School Board to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for a period of not more than one school year from the date of expulsion.

3.5 "Firearm" means:

3.5.1 Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the application of an explosive;

3.5.2 The frame or receiver of any such weapon;

3.5.3 Any firearm muffler or silencer; or

3.5.4 Any destructive device.

3.6 **"Flammable liquid"** means class 1 flammable liquids as defined in section 9.108 of the Uniform Fire Code as adopted pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 299F.011, but it does not include intoxicating liquor as defined in Minnesota Statute Section 340A.101.

3.7 **"Possess"** means having a weapon on one's person, in one's physical control, or in an area subject to one's control. A person who is holding a weapon for another and the person for whom the weapon is being held shall both be considered to be in possession of the weapon.

3.8 **"Replica firearm"** means a device or object that is not defined as a dangerous weapon, and that is a facsimile or toy version of, and reasonably appears to be, a pistol, revolver, shotgun, sawed-off shotgun, rifle, machine gun, rocket launcher, or any other firearm.

3.9 **"School Zone"** means:

3.9.1 The buildings and grounds of the Schoolcraft Learning Comm. and all related roads, walkways, support and maintenance facilities, and athletic fields;

3.9.2 The area surrounding the area defined in clause 3.9.1 to a distance of 300 feet beyond the boundaries thereof;

3.9.3 A school bus when it is being used to transport one or more students of Schoolcraft Learning Comm.

3.10 **"Weapons"** means any device or instrument that is designed for use in attack or defense in combat or fighting or is capable of being so used, including but not limited to firearms, pellet guns, replica guns, non-functioning guns, knives, clubs, metal knuckles, numchucks, throwing stars, explosives, stun guns, dart guns, ammunition, and when used in a threatening manner, belts, sticks, pencils and pens.

4.0 Policy

4.1 **Dangerous weapons.** No student, staff member, or any other person other than law enforcement or security officers shall possess a dangerous weapon, except in connection with, and in compliance with the rules established for, duly authorized and established firearm safety, color guard or marksmanship courses.

4.2 **Violent or disruptive behavior.** No student shall engage in acts of violence, intimidation, harassment or other behavior that is likely to cause physical or emotional injury to another person or disrupt or interfere with the educational process or with any other school function.

4.3 **Gangs and other violent groups.** Gang activity shall not be permitted. Gang activity shall include but is not limited to the wearing of gang-related clothing, jewelry, and symbols; engaging in organized, group violations of

law or school rules; displaying gang names or symbols; making gang saluted or gesture; extorting money or other property; participating in gang initiation ceremonies or meetings; and advocating or soliciting gang membership.

- 4.4 Dress standards.** Clothing, jewelry, and accessories that are obscene, defamatory, likely to disrupt the educational process or cause others to react violently, disruptively or illegally, or that pose a danger to the safety or welfare of others are prohibited.
- 4.5 Staff behavior.** While the Schoolcraft Learning Comm. recognizes the need to maintain discipline, district personnel must be careful to model positive techniques for dealing with interpersonal conflict, aggression, and misbehavior by others. To that end, District employees and agents shall not engage in emotionally abusive acts such as shouting, ridicule, and threats, or in physical abuse such as spanking, slapping or pushing. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

5.0 Discipline.

- 5.1 Possession of a dangerous weapon.** Violation of Paragraph 4.1 by a student shall be cause for immediate expulsion for 365 days. On a case-by-case basis the Director may recommend a shorter expulsion period based on mitigating factors such as the student's past record, the likelihood of a repeat offense, the student's attitude, the student's parents' willingness and ability to take corrective measures, and the gravity of the violation. Discipline for violations of the other provisions of Section 4.0, shall be established by rule promulgated pursuant to Section 7.0; provided that in determining the appropriate discipline on the disciplined student and his/her family but also the safety of other students and school staff.
- 5.2 Violent or disruptive behavior.** Violation of Paragraph 4.2 by a student shall be cause for immediate suspension for a period of up to 30 days for a first offense and up to 365 days for a second or subsequent offense. Within these limits, the Director shall recommend a period of expulsion based on factors such as those described in Paragraph 5.1; provided that use of a weapon of any sort in connection with the violation shall be considered an aggravating factor.
- 5.3 Gang Activity.** Violation of Paragraph 4.3 by a student shall be cause for an oral or written reprimand, which shall be noted on the student's next progress report, or expulsion for a period of up to 7 days for a first offense and up to 30 days for a second or subsequent offense. If expulsion is appropriate, the Director shall recommend a period of expulsion within these limits based on such factors as those described in Paragraph 5.1; provided that the use of a weapon in connection with the violation shall be considered an aggravating factor.
- 5.4 Dress standards.** Violation of paragraph 4.4 by a student shall be cause for an oral or written reprimand, which shall be noted on the student's next

progress report, or expulsion for a period of up to 3 days for a first offense and up to 7 days for a second or subsequent offense. If expulsion is appropriate, the Director shall recommend a period of expulsion within these limits based on factors such as those described in paragraph 5.1.

- 5.5 Staff behavior.** Violation of paragraph 4.5 by a staff member shall be processed as a disciplinary matter pursuant to other personnel policies and procedures of the School.
- 5.6 Students with disabilities.** Students with disabilities may be expelled and otherwise disciplined for behavior unrelated to their disabilities; provided that the procedural safeguards required by IDEA and Section 504 are followed. If a student with a disability engages in behavior that would justify discipline under these policies and procedures and that behavior is related to the student's disability, the student's placement shall be reevaluated by a professional who is familiar with the student and knowledgeable about special education. A disabled student who is expelled for violation of these policies and procedures, is still entitled to educational services from the school.
- 5.6.1 Interim alternative educational setting.** The Director may unilaterally change the placement of a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) who violated paragraph 4.1 to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 days, regardless of whether the violation is related to the student's disability.
- 5.6.2 Process during placement in interim alternative educational setting.** The parent or guardian of the student will be given prior written notice of the interim alternative educational placement. If the parent or guardian of the student agrees with the change to the interim alternative educational setting, the School shall use its regular IEP process to make the change permanent. If the student's parent or guardian does not agree to the interim alternative educational setting and the IEP team fails to reach an agreement on the student's educational placement within 45 days from the beginning of the interim alternative educational placement, the student shall be returned to the placement specified in the student's IEP at the expiration of the interim placement. At any time during the 45-day period the student's parent or guardian may request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer mutually agreed upon by the parent or guardian and the Director. The decision of the hearing officer shall be rendered no more than 45 days after the date of receipt of the request for hearing. Until the hearing officer renders a decision, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting. Except to the extent they are inconsistent contained in Minnesota Statutes, Section 120.17, are hereby adopted by the School Board and shall be applied by the School.

6.0 Prevention Strategies.

- 6.1 Investigation and disciplinary action.** The Director shall be responsible for ensuring that all complaints or allegations concerning violation of these policies and procedures and any incidents of violence, harassment or intimidation are promptly and fully investigated and that appropriate disciplinary action is taken.
- 6.2 Report to law enforcement authorities.** Any person who is found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the local law enforcement authorities. Reporting procedures shall be established by rule promulgated in the manner provided in Section 7.
- 6.3 Parent involvement.** The Director shall be responsible for developing and implementing methods of effective parental involvement in the School's anti-violence activities.
- 6.4 Student support services.** The following services shall be provided to students as a means of encouraging compliance with these policies and procedures;
 - 6.4.1 Counseling.** The Director shall ensure that students will have access to student service professionals, whether school or community based, including counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists, who are knowledgeable in assisting students with violence prevention and intervention.
 - 6.4.2 Information.** The Director shall be responsible for providing students with appropriate, effective information about these policies and procedures as well as resources available for violence prevention and intervention. Information about the School's anti-violence policies and programs shall be provided at least annually.
- 6.5 Staff Education and training.** The Director shall be responsible for developing and delivering training to all School staff that teaches proper physical restraint of students who are hurting others or themselves; proper school-to-parent communication about student behavior problems; the identification and proper referral of students who may be exhibiting behavioral or emotional problems; and other appropriate violence prevention techniques such as recognition, reporting, visibility, supervision, safe responses, and creation of a positive school climate. This training shall be offered at least annually to new teachers with annual updates and refreshers for existing staff.
- 6.6 Removal of symbols of violence.** All school employees shall help to encourage nonviolence by removing all symbols of violence such as graffiti and posters displayed on school buildings or other facilities immediately upon discovery.
- 6.7 Use of facilities by groups that oppose violence.** School employees are encouraged to arrange for the use of school building and other facilities by

anti-violence groups, family support services, parents and other community groups and agencies that are working to reduce violence.

6.8 Other strategies. The Director shall evaluate other violence prevention strategies, including, but not limited to the following, and shall recommend appropriate action to the School Board: (1) convene a local school security review committee or task force comprised of school officials, law enforcement authorities, parents, students, and other youth service providers to advise on implementation of these policies and procedures; (2) develop a comprehensive crisis management plan for the School that deals with events such as bomb threats, shootings and stabbings; (3) encourage student responsibility by encouraging them to report suspicious individuals and activities in the school zone; (4) establish a curriculum committee that is responsible for exploring ways of teaching students violence prevention strategies, legal education, and conflict resolution; and (5) improvements in cross-cultural awareness.

7.0 Rules and Programs. Subject to review and approval by the School Board, the Director shall prescribe school rules and programs as necessary or desirable to implement the policies set forth in Section 4.0; the discipline set forth in Section 5.0; and the prevention strategies mandated by Section 6.0.