

## 5008: FIGHTING and PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (AP)

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### POLICY

The Board of Education believes that schools must be safe, accepting and inclusive places where students get along with each other and resolve differences in a peaceful, respectful manner. The purpose of AP 5008 is to outline the District's response to situations where students attempt to resolve interpersonal conflict through fighting and/or physical violence.

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### REGULATIONS

#### 1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 To be involved in a fight, a student must be physically engaged with another student in a violent manner as judged by the school administration or representative.
- 1.2 To be an instigator of a fight, a student must attempt to provoke or goad another student to fight. The degree of instigation will be judged by the school administrator evaluating the most recent incident as well as those reasonably leading to the altercation. Students who plan, organize or promote a fight, and those students whose violation of AP 5017 – Cybersafety leads to a physical altercation will also be considered instigators.
- 1.3 To be acting in self-defence, a student may not have been an instigator and may fend off blows in a reasonable manner while attempting not to fight.
- 1.4 To avoid a physical altercation and/or suspension, a student should seek assistance from school officials to mediate disputes which may lead to physical aggression.

#### 2.0 CONSEQUENCES OF FIGHTING

- 2.1 The student who "fights" and the student who is judged to have "instigated the fight" including instigators who did not actively fight, will initially be treated as equal at fault. Each will be indefinitely suspended from school as being involved in behaviour not acceptable to the standards of the school. An immediate investigation will be undertaken to determine the events leading to and culminating in the fight.
- 2.2 Students subject to discipline will be disciplined in accordance with the following:
  - 0 – 5 day suspension assessed by the principal based on the student's attempt to avoid the altercation or on the basis of minor instigation. A school principal may also consider mediation or other restorative processes as part of or as an alternative to suspension.

"6" or more day suspension assessed by the Board, after hearing a joint recommendation from the Superintendent and the principal (or designate). The recommendation shall attempt at consistency based on the vigour/intensity of the combatants and the degree of instigation involved.

### **3.0 CONSEQUENCES OF UNPROVOKED VIOLENCE AGAINST ANOTHER STUDENT OR STUDENTS**

3.1 A student who commits unprovoked and/or random violence against another student or students will be indefinitely suspended from school as being involved in behaviour not acceptable to the standards of the school.

3.2 Students judged to be subject to discipline may be dealt with as follows:

0-5 day suspension assessed by the principal based on the severity of the violence and the number of occurrences;

"6" or more day suspension assessed by the Board after hearing a joint recommendation from the Superintendent and the principal (or designate). Based on the severity of the violence and the number of occurrences.