

**REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTERING DISCIPLINE FOR FIGHTING
AND/OR ENDANGERING BEHAVIOR**

- I. Fighting in middle and high schools impedes the educational process and can result in injuries to students and staff. Some fights are more serious than others. At the very least, all are disruptive, many result in injuries and all result in compromising school safety. In accordance with RS 17:416 all incidents of fighting will be investigated and a determination will be made whether it can be reasonably concluded that the use of such force more probably than not was committed solely for the purpose of preventing a forcible offense against the student (self-defense). A student who is an aggressor or who brings on the difficulty (verbal taunting, threatening) cannot claim self-defense. For the purposes of student conduct, fighting is defined as the use of violent physical means such as blows with fists or a weapon to try to injure or overpower someone. Self-defense is defined as the right of an individual to respond to force with reasonable force, only so long as it is necessary to protect oneself; when the danger is past, resorting to violence is no longer sanctioned. The school recognizes self protection, not retaliation.

- II. When a physical confrontation occurs on a school campus, during extracurricular activities, on a school bus, or at a school bus stop, a thorough investigation of the incident will occur. The administrator must determine if the students involved were the aggressor(s) or if they were defending themselves. If the administrator determines that the student was guilty of fighting (not self-defense) he/she will take the following action:
 - A. Middle and High School
 1. A principal would automatically recommend the expulsion of a student when:
 - a. A school employee is intentionally injured as a result of attempting to disengage two or more students from physical confrontation.
 - b. Any student involved in the fight requires medical attention.
 - c. The fight is determined to be pre-meditated.
 - d. The fight is defined as a gang fight (three or more students engaged).
 - e. The fight is the student's second fight during an academic year.
 - f. Any instrument utilized as a weapon is used.
 2. A principal would suspend for three to five days
 - a. All other physical confrontations that is determined through investigation to constitute a fight which does not meet the above exceptions.
 3. Students suspended for fighting must abide by the following conditions to avoid recommendation for expulsion:
 - a. The student will not be allowed to drive to school for a period determined by administrator.
 - b. The student will be prohibited from all co-curricular and extracurricular school activities for a period of time determined by the administrator. This includes field trips, dances, sporting events, band activities, etc. Students enrolled in classes requiring extra curricular participation would be given written assignments having the same weight as the participation grade for grading purposes for the time restricted.

- c. The student may be required to attend six hours of anger management classes to be held at the school.
- d. The student and his/her parent must attend a conference with the principal or designee prior to the return from suspension.

B. Elementary Schools

- 1. A principal will use discretion in assigning discipline to students who engage in fighting on a school campus. At minimum, a state form will be completed and an investigation will occur for all fights. If a student is suspended for an incident of fighting, a parent conference must be held prior to returning from suspension.

III. Suspension Appeals for Fighting

- A. In order to avoid continuation of the conflict and to afford students a “cooling off period” the student would continue to serve their suspension while a Suspension Appeal Hearing is arranged. If a suspension is modified or overturned, the hearing officer will remit any of the excess suspension days and allow the student to make up missed assignments and tests.

IV. Checklist for Investigation

- A. Interview any witness to the event (students, teachers, administrators, staff) and obtain written statements
- B. Determine if medical assistance is needed and complete an accident/incident report.
- C. Determine if student was a participant or defending him/herself.
- D. Inform parent/guardian as soon as possible.
- E. Inform police as necessary.
- F. Recommend appropriate disciplinary action after reviewing the discipline records of all students involved.

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