

## Safe Schools Policy

### I. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to foster a safe, positive environment for learning.

### II. Prohibited Conduct & Related Discipline

Prohibited conduct is forbidden at school, on school property, including school vehicles and at any school activity. A serious violation that threatens or harms a school, school property, a person connected with school or property associated with a person connected with school is forbidden regardless of where it occurs.

A. You **WILL** be removed from school **for at least 1 year** for a serious violation involving:

1. A real, look alike, or pretend firearm, or
2. explosive or flammable material

Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis through the Board of Directors.

B. You **WILL** be removed from school for:

1. possession, control, actual or threatened use of a real, look alike or pretend weapon, explosive or noxious or flammable material;
2. the sale or distribution of a drug, controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or drug paraphenalia;
3. using or threatening to use serious force; or
4. a serious violation of Section II C affecting a student or staff member.

C. You **MAY** be removed from school for:

1. willful disobedience or violation of a school rule;
2. defying authority;
3. disruptive behavior;
4. foul, profane, vulgar or abusive language;
5. defacing or destroying school property;
6. truancy;
7. theft;
8. posing a significant threat to the welfare, safety or morals of a student, school personnel or the operation of the school;

9. possessing, using, controlling or being under the influence of alcohol, a drug, an imitation drug or drug paraphernalia or misusing an substance;
10. possessing or using tobacco;
11. hazing, demeaning or assaulting someone or forcing someone to ingest a substance;
12. inappropriate exposure of body parts;
13. sexual or other harassment; or
14. gang-related attire or activity.

The decision to remove or to discipline in some other way is made by a school administrator based on all the circumstances.

- D. The type and length of discipline is based on factors such as previous violations, severity of conduct and other relevant educational concern.
- E. When appropriate, students will be placed on remedial discipline plans
- F. School personnel will use reasonable physical restraint if necessary to protect a person or property from physical injury or to remove a violent or disruptive student.
- G. If you damage or lose school property, then your official report cards and transcripts may be withheld until payment for the damage is received or the lost property is recovered.

### **III. Searches**

- A. School personnel can search you and your personal property based on reasonable suspicion. Reasonable suspicion may be based on use of dogs, metal detectors, or video surveillance.
- B. School personnel can also conduct random searches that might include desks and other school property.

### **IV. Expulsion and Suspension Defined**

- A. Expulsion is a disciplinary removal from school by the Board of Directors for more than 10 days without an offer of alternative educational service.
- B. Suspension is any other disciplinary removal from school.

### **V. Readmission and Admission**

- A. If you are removed from school under II.A, readmission depends upon satisfactory evidence that you will not be a danger to yourself, others or school property.

- B. If you are removed from school under II.B or C, you can be readmitted after your parent/guardian meets with school official to make a plan to correct your behavior and after you complete your days of suspension.
- C. The Board of Directors may deny admission to a student who has been expelled from any school in the last twelve months.

**VI. Due Process for Safe Schools Policy**

- A. If you are removed from school or otherwise disciplined under this policy, you can meet with the School Director to tell your side of the story.
- B. If the School Director recommends your removal for more than 10 days, notice will be given to you and your parents, which will identify the reasons for that action, and that it will be included in your official record, and provide that you may appeal that decision to members of the school's board designated to hear such appeals.
- C. In that appeal the School Director will present the information the decision is based upon, to the board members. You may appear to be heard and represented by counsel if you choose to do so. The school is to be notified if counsel will be present, so that they can arrange to be represented by counsel as well.

**VII. Process for Expungement**

- A. Each student's official record shall include notice of any suspension for more than 10 days or any expulsion provided for by N.C. Gen. State. 115C-391, and description of the conduct for which that student was suspended or expelled.
- B. The School Director shall expunge that notice from the record upon the request of any student at least 16 years old or emancipated, or the student's parent, legal guardian or custodian, if (a) the student either graduates from high school or is not expelled or suspended again during the 2-year period commencing on the day the student returns to school after the expulsion or suspension, (b) the director determines that the record is no longer needed to maintain a safe and orderly school, or (c) the director determines that the record is no longer needed to adequately serve the child.

The School Director may also expunge the record without such request, provided the other conditions set forth in B are met.