

SAFE SCHOOL STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY

Fitzgerald Public Schools' Board of Education endeavors to ensure that Fitzgerald Public Schools is a safe place for teaching, learning, and working. Physical and/or verbal assaults committed by a student against school personnel and/or other student(s) will not be tolerated. Student possession of any dangerous weapons as determined by administration will not be tolerated. Fitzgerald Public Schools will take swift and appropriate disciplinary action for the following infractions:

Physical Assaults Against School Personnel

Any student in grade 6 or above who commits a physical assault against a district employee or against a person engaged as a volunteer or contractor for the district on school property, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event shall be permanently expelled subject to possible reinstatement after one hundred eighty (180) school days. Physical assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.

This policy may also be applied to individuals who participate in the planning of an assault or who assist or participate in a physical assault. Examples may include, but are not limited to, solicitation, serving as a lookout or other conduct that facilitates or encourages an assault. The Board of Education shall have the discretion in these situations to impose discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion from Fitzgerald Public Schools.

Physical Assaults Against Students

Any student in grade 6 or above who commits a physical assault against another student on school property, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school sponsored activity or event shall be suspended or expelled, depending upon the circumstances, for up to one hundred eighty (180) school days. Physical assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.

This policy may also be applied to individuals who participate in the planning of an assault or who assist or participate in a physical assault. Examples may include, but are not limited to, solicitation, serving as a lookout or other conduct that facilitates or encourages an assault. The Board of Education shall have the discretion in these situations to impose discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion from Fitzgerald Public Schools.

Verbal Assaults

Any student in grade 6 or above who commits a verbal assault on school property, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or any event against a district employee or against a person engaged as a volunteer or contractor for the district shall be suspended or expelled for a period of time as determined by the discretion of the School Board. "Verbal assault" means a threat to inflict immediate injury upon another person, coupled with an apparent immediate ability to commit same, and which puts a person in a reasonable fear of such injury or a bomb threat or any serious threat directed at a school building,

other school property, or a school-related event. For purposes of this policy, the definition of assault also includes written threats.

Application to Students with Disabilities – This policy shall be applied in a manner consistent with the rights secured under federal and state law to students who are determined to be eligible for special education programs and services.

Legal Ref: MCL 380.1311; 750.82; 750.235a; 752.891 (Weapons Free School Law). MCL 380.1209 (Teacher Suspensions); MCL 380.1311a (Physical and Verbal Assaults Against School Personnel); MCL 380.1310 (Physical Assaults Against Students).

Adopted: October 7, 1999; Amended: 06/02/04; 5/5/2010