

CHAPTER 5.00 - STUDENTS

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SCHOOL RELATED CRIMES

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It is essential that schools be safe and orderly to provide environments that foster learning and high academic achievement. The District shall strive to protect students, staff, visitors and volunteers from harm and to protect victims of crime from further victimization. This policy applies to conduct on School District property, school or District provided transportation and at any school or District sponsored activity. This policy implements the zero tolerance policy as outlined in Florida Statutes and State Board of Education rules.

- (1) Students found to have committed the following offenses on school property, school-sponsored transportation or during a school-sponsored activity shall be expelled, with or without continuing educational services from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one full year and be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.
 - (a) Bringing a firearm or weapon as defined in Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, to school to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school.
 - (b) Making a threat or false report as defined in Florida Statutes Sections 790.162 and 790.163 respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation or a school-sponsored activity.
 - (c) Assault or battery on specified officials or employees in violation of Section 784.081, Florida Statutes.
 - (d) Hazing as defined in 1006.135, Florida Statutes.
- (2) Students found to have committed the following offenses on school property, school-sponsored transportation or during a school-sponsored activity shall be brought before the Board for expulsion:
 - (a) homicide (murder, manslaughter);
 - (b) sexual battery;
 - (c) armed robbery;
 - (d) aggravated battery;

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- (e) battery or aggravated battery or threats to a teacher or other school personnel;
- (f) kidnapping or abduction;
- (g) arson;
- (h) possession, use, or sale of any firearm or weapons;
- (i) possession, use, or sale of any explosive device;
- (j) possession, use, or sale of controlled substances;
- (k) threat or false report to do harm related to bombs or weapons; and
- (l) victimization of students

The expulsion limit is a minimum one (1) full year.

- (3) The District shall report to the appropriate law enforcement agency any act that poses a threat to the safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons on school property or at school events or is a serious violation of law. The following acts when committed on School district property or at a District activity shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency:
 - (a) Alcohol violation; sale or distribution;
 - (b) Arson;
 - (c) Battery;
 - (d) Bomb or biochemical threat;
 - (e) Breaking and entering or burglary;
 - (f) Disruption of school, major;
 - (g) Drug use, sale or distribution;
 - (h) Explosives, possession or use;

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- (i) Extortion;
 - (j) False alarm;
 - (k) Firearms violation;
 - (l) Gang-related activity;
 - (m) Hate crimes;
 - (n) Illegal organization, membership;
 - (o) Robbery;
 - (p) Sexual battery;
 - (q) Sexual harassment;
 - (r) Sexual misconduct;
 - (s) Sexual offense;
 - (t) Stalking;
 - (u) Trespassing;
 - (v) Weapons violation;
 - (w) Any felony as defined by Florida Statutes.
- (4) Prior to taking such action against any student, the School Board shall ensure that appropriate due process procedures are followed. If a student committing one of the offenses outlined in this procedure is identified as disabled and participating in a program for exceptional students, then school personnel shall follow procedures in State Board of Education rules. This provision shall not be construed to remove a School Board's discretion in cases where mitigating circumstances may affect decisions on disciplinary action.
- (5) The School Board may assign more severe consequences than normally authorized for violations of the Code of Student Conduct when the offender appears motivated by hostility toward the victim's real or perceived race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity,

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ancestry, national origin, genetic information, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference, or disability.

- (6) Local law enforcement authorities shall be notified immediately when one of the offenses listed above is committed on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity. Additionally, if the offense involves a victim, school officials shall notify the victim and the victim's parents or legal guardian if the victim is a minor, of the offense and of the victim's rights to press charges against the offender. School personnel shall cooperate in any investigation or other proceedings leading to the victim's exercise of rights as provided by law.
- (7) The school principal shall monitor the administration of discipline of students to ensure that discipline is administered equitably without regard to real or perceived race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, genetic information, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference, or disability. Annually, the principal shall review school discipline data with the school advisory council in developing school improvement plans to maintain a safe and healthy school environment that protects the civil rights of all students.

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