

POLICY

Pine Hill Board of Education

Section: Students

5611A. VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR-ZERO TOLERANCE

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5611A- VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR-ZERO TOLERANCE

The Pine Hill Board of Education recognizes that there are certain behaviors that, if tolerated, would quickly destroy the type of learning environment to which the students and staff of the district are entitled. These behaviors, categorized as violent and aggressive, will not be tolerated and shall therefore result in immediate action being taken by the district.

All acts of violence and aggression shall result in those involved being placed on a compulsory Behavior Management Plan. In addition to this BMP each situation shall result in specific consequences, determined by the seriousness of the act, including consideration of expulsion from school for acts of a serious or chronic nature.

Acts of violence and aggression must be well documented and communicated to the school Principal, Superintendent and the Board of Education. The immediate involvement of the parent(s) or guardian(s) is also essential.

The following behaviors are defined as violent and aggressive:

1. Possession, Threat With, or Use of a Weapon

Weapon is any firearm, whether loaded or not loaded, any device designed as a weapon or, through its use, capable of producing bodily harm or death, or any device or instrument which is used to threaten or cause bodily harm or death.

Possession is defined as having a weapon on one's person, or in an area subject to one's control, on school property or at a school activity.

Note: A student who finds a weapon and immediately advises a teacher or other adult, shall not be considered in possession of a weapon. Students who find a weapon are advised to seek adult assistance and are advised not to touch the weapon. Each teacher shall seize or cause to be seized and take possession of any offensive or dangerous weapon that is brought to school by a pupil and hand over any such weapon to the Principal who shall notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) warning him/her that the pupil may be suspended or expelled from the school.

2. Physical Assault is the act of striking or touching a person or that person's property with a part of the anatomy or any object, with the intent of causing hurt or harm.

3. Verbal Abuse shall include but is not limited to swearing, screaming, obscene gestures or threats when directed, either orally, including the telephone, or in writing, at an individual, his/her family or a group.

4. Intimidation is an act intended to frighten or coerce someone into submission or obedience.

5. Extortion is the use of verbal or physical coercion in order to obtain financial or material gain from others.
6. Bullying is the use of physical or verbal coercion to obtain control over others or to be habitually cruel to others who are weaker.
7. Gangs are groups of youths who share common beliefs, attitudes and attire and exhibit unlawful and anti-social behavior, and who associate with each other for mutual protection and/or profit.
8. Sexual Harassment is behavior which includes any unwanted, unsolicited sexual advance or sexually oriented behavior made by a person who knows or who ought reasonably to know that such attention is unwanted. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, unnecessary touching or petting, suggestive or other sexually aggressive remarks, leering at a person's body, demands for sexual favors or compromising invitations.
9. Stalking is the persistent following, contacting, watching or any other such threatening actions that compromise the peace of mind or the personal safety of the individual.
10. Defiance is the act or instance of defying or opposing; insubordination.
11. Racial Slurs are insulting, disparaging or derogatory comments made directly or by innuendo regarding a person's racial origin.

Such acts of violence and aggression will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Building Administrators, who shall deem the next appropriate course of action. All such acts must be well documented and communicated to the Superintendent and the Board of Education. The immediate involvement of the parent(s) or guardian(s) is also essential. Under the agreement between the Board of Education and the County Prosecutor's Office such acts shall initiate a referral to the local juvenile authorities, or local law enforcement officials, and/or the County Prosecutor's Office.

Adopted: 28 August 2007