

## **Regulation 503.6-R(1): Discipline of Students Who Make Threats of Violence or Cause Incidents of Violence – Student Threats of violence and Incidents of Violence**

Effective student discipline policies serve the needs of the District in maintaining the order of the education environment while safeguarding the education interests of all students. For this reason, it is crucial to engage many perspectives in crafting sound policies related to discipline. The board, in conjunction with teachers and administrators in the District, have assigned further meaning to concepts listed in this policy.

### **Incident Levels Defined**

Incident levels must escalate, with Level 1 being less severe than Level 3 incidents. However, the District maintains discretion in applying the level of discipline appropriate for an incident. In making this determination, the administration will consider the following definitions of incident levels. Because no definition could encompass all possible threats or incidents, the administration has discretion in determining which level to assign the incident after looking at the nature of the incident as well as the age, grade level and maturity of the student.

**Level 1 Defined:** A threat of violence is made and no prior threats have been made by the student. Requires an investigation into the threat and if found, the parent or guardian notification. The building principal will document and administer the appropriate punishment.

**Level 2 Defined:** A threat of violence is made and prior threats of violence have been made and documented, or the threat of violence or incident of violence results in injury, property damage, or assault by a student. Requires an investigation into the threat or incident and if found, the parent or guardian will be notified. The building administrator in collaboration with the school counselor and social worker will document and administer the appropriate punishment and supports.

**Level 3 Defined:** A threat of violence is made and more than two prior threats of violence have been made and documented or any incident of violence resulting in injury, property damage, or assault by a student. Requires assistance from law enforcement. Law enforcement will investigate the threat or incident and will take over all control. The building administrator will notify the superintendent about the threat and/or incident.

### **Timeframe for Determining Repeated Incidents**

The district will consider all incidents within one school year as sufficiently close in proximity between incidents to establish that a repeated incident has occurred. The rationale for establishing this timeframe is the district believes every school year is a fresh start. The administration will have discretion to alter this timeframe when appropriate under the circumstances, depending on the nature of the incident as well as the age, grade level and maturity of the student.

### **Considerations for Determining the maturity of the Student:**

The District believes that gauging the maturity of a student is subject to interpretation and best left to the licensed employees who interact most closely with the student on a regular basis. Assessing a student's maturity level is based on individual characteristics unique to each student. Therefore, in making a determination about the maturity of a student, the administration will consider the following factors in determining the maturity of the student:

- Age and grade level of the student
- Reasonable likelihood of the student's ability to carry out the threat.
- Prior behavior and academic history of the student.

### **Considerations for Determining Whether the Off-Campus Threat of Violence or Incident of Violence Will Directly Affect the Good Order, Efficient Management and Welfare of the School District**

The District recognizes that students maintain First Amendment rights to free expression both within school and outside. However, free speech protections are not absolute and do not extend to true threats of violence toward an individual or a group of individuals. In considering whether a threat or incident of violence will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district necessitating the need for investigation, the administration will consider, among other things, the following factors:

- The specificity of the threat for time, location or individuals(s) targeted
- The reasonable likelihood of the student's ability to carry out the threat
- The reasonable likelihood that the threat will interfere with the operation of the educational environment

In addition to the notification requirements in policy, the administration will apprise the parents or guardians of any student who suffered violence or a threat of violence, of the rights to file complaints under any other relevant board policies including but not limited to anti-bullying/anti-harassment and Title IX.