

# POLICY

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53  
(Okanagan Similkameen)

## WEAPONS, VIOLENCE & INTIMIDATION

Reference: F-2

Revised: June 25, 2008

### WEAPONS, VIOLENCE, AND INTIMIDATION

The Board of Education wishes to promote and contribute to a safe and secure environment for students, and endorses the use of constructive means to resolve conflicts. The Board recognizes its responsibility in ensuring a secure environment for students and staff in which they will be safe from violence and intimidation and views education as the means to achieve a peaceful and harmonious learning environment. The Board expects schools to foster an environment that is weapons-free and violence-free and firmly believes that weapons and violence cannot be tolerated on school premises, or during school activities, both on or off school premises. It concurs with the definition of a weapon in the Criminal Code of Canada, Section 2: "weapon" means anything used, designed to be used or intended for use (a) in causing death or injury to any person, or (b) for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes a firearm.

The following are strictly prohibited:

- weapons or explosives of any kind on school premises, school buses or during school activities,
- possession of any instrument (including instruments not normally intended for violence or weapons use) or explosives designed to inflict injury or to create fear in someone,
- intimidation and/or verbal, written or other non-verbal threats which induce fear of injury or other physical harm,
- use of the internet for the purpose of seeking or sending information for preparing explosives or weapons.

Failure to abide within the bounds of this policy will result in serious consequences for offenders as per Policy F-3 – Student Conduct/Discipline.

# **REGULATION**

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### **WEAPONS, VIOLENCE, AND INTIMIDATION**

All students, parents/guardians and staff shall annually be made aware of this Policy and Regulations.

Where a Principal/Vice Principal has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a student has:

- a weapon on his/her person, or in a locker, or in a desk, or in a school bus, or in any location on school property, or on a school field trip, or
- displayed or brandished a weapon in a threatening or intimidating manner, or
- assaulted another person with a weapon, or
- distributed media which portrays violence as an acceptable norm, or
- intimidated or used any threats against individuals or groups, or
- used the internet or other media forms for the purpose of seeking or sending information for preparing explosives or weapons, or intimidate another person

then he/she, depending on the nature, severity of the situation, and student circumstances shall undertake actions based on Policy F3: Student Conduct & Discipline – Procedures for Student Behavior and Interventions.