
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 5437 THREATS/ASSAULTS

On May 25, 1999, the Board of Education revised this policy, which prohibits students from engaging in several activities, including “verbally or physically threatening students of District employees, including the making of death threats”.

The related rule for this policy further states that if the incident involves a death threat:

A(2) “...the student will be referred to the Administrative Review Committee for expulsion review consideration.”

A(5) “...law enforcement officials will be notified.”

The implementation of this policy requires the determination of a legitimate threat. Law enforcement officials have advised that the following considerations be made when assessing the situation:

Consider the intent of the communication. Was the student using a figure of speech or slang expression, or did the student intend to complete the stated action?

Consider the potential for the action to occur. What is the past experience with the student? Does the student have access to weapons, or have they mentioned a specific weapon such as “my dad’s gun” or “my friend’s hunting knife”?

Consider the overall picture of the situation. Is the threat of action made both with an intent to follow through and with the ability to carry it out?

School principals may use judgment in assessing student behavior to determine the legitimacy of the threat. In all cases, the principal will:

- Investigate the threat
- Consider the age of the student and the circumstances of the situation
- Consider whether the student has a disability
- Consider the student’s past behavior
- Contact your Director or Executive Director
- Contact the parent of the student who made the threat
- Contact the parent of the student who received the threat
- Ask parents of the student making the threat about the availability of weapons to the student
- Institute disciplinary action
- Refer the student making the threat to the school counselor

If the principal determines that a legitimate threat has been made, the following actions will be taken:

- A conference will be held with the parent/guardian and student involved in making the threat
- The student will be referred to the Administrative Review Committee for possible expulsion
- The police will be notified

School principals should contact the appropriate Director or Executive Director for guidance in any situation that relates to the implementation of this policy.