



Zero Tolerance Policy

Safe and secure schools are essential to providing a learning environment in which all students can become literate, thinking, and contributing members of a multicultural society. A safe environment is essential to staff and students and to support good attitudes toward teaching and learning.

The Board of Education has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy on weapons, violent acts, and repeated fighting. This policy applies to middle level, junior high, and high school students. Secondary students who violate this policy will be suspended and recommended for expulsion. Students are subject to arrest if having or using the weapon violates the law.

Weapons, violent acts, and fighting: Weapons include guns, knives, BB guns, replica guns, explosives, fireworks, or any object that is used in a threatening or harmful manner. Carrying any kind of knife (for example, a pocket knife or butter knife for use at lunch) will not be allowed. An object used in a threatening manner will be considered a weapon even if its normal use is not as a weapon.

The policy also means that students who are involved in repeated fights that cause physical injury will be recommended for expulsion.

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs: Our district prohibits alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use on all school campuses, at sponsored events, and going to and from school or school sponsored events. Students found to be selling or furnishing controlled/prohibited substances or in possession of an amount of a controlled/prohibited substance determined to be for more than personal use, will be recommended for expulsion on the first offense, except for tobacco offenses. If your child is found in possession of tobacco, he/she will be recommended for expulsion on the fourth offense.

School district personnel will also counsel disciplined students by way of early intervention. Counseling may include:

- Individual instruction or tutoring
- Conferences with parents
- Referral to a community agency
- Regularly scheduled appointments with the school counselor

If a student violates an intervention contract, the student will be suspended. If the student violates the contract a second time, the student may be reassigned to another program or school.

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Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.