

VANDALISM

School buildings and grounds are built and maintained with taxes levied on the taxpayers of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District; therefore, it is in the best interest of every student and resident to protect that investment adequately.

For the purposes of this policy, vandalism is the willful damaging, destruction, or defacing of school-owned property. This definition also applies to any deliberate tampering with or misuse of district computer network services or equipment. It also includes the willful damaging, destruction, or defacing of property used by the school district in conjunction with related services such as school buses, on field trips, and other school-sponsored events that may occur off-campus.

All citizens of the district, students, district employees and members of the police department(s) are urged by the Board to cooperate in reporting any incident of vandalism to property belonging to the district and the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible. The building principal is authorized to report such acts of vandalism to local law enforcement authorities.

Students who destroy school property through vandalism or arson or who create a hazard to the safety of other people on school property may, depending upon the severity of the act, be referred to law enforcement authorities. The superintendent, the principal or their designees are authorized to sign a criminal complaint and to file a formal request to the court for restitution for property damaged as part of any action brought by the police. Furthermore, students may be disciplined in accordance with the Safe Schools Zone Act, and applicable policies. Additionally, the district may seek financial reimbursement from either the student(s) or the students' parent/legal guardian for such damage caused.

If the vandalism is caused by someone other than a student of the District, the District may proceed with all legal remedies available to it under the law, including criminal prosecution. When vandalism is discovered, the administration is directed to take such steps as are necessary to identify the vandals. If students have taken part in vandalism, the Building Principal shall:

1. Identify the students involved;
2. Notify the students' parents/legal guardians;
3. Decide upon disciplinary and/or legal action;
4. Take any constructive actions needed to guard against further student misbehavior;
5. Seek appropriate restitution.

This policy is not intended to supersede nor replace any remedies available by law.

Adopted: 9/24/01
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