

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Violence Prevention Policy

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It is the policy of the Westerly School District, in accordance with the Attorney General's Task Force Against Violence in Schools, to prevent violence and promulgate that violence will not be tolerated in its schools. This policy represents an agreement between the Westerly Police Department, Westerly High School, and Westerly Middle School to engage in cooperative efforts aimed at the prevention, reduction, and eventual elimination of violence in schools. It is only through this cooperation that we will maintain safety in our schools and promote a secure learning environment. This effort has been supported and will be monitored by the Attorney General's Task Force Against Violence in Schools.

In order to ensure success, the parties to this policy include superintendents, principals, teachers, school personnel, school bus drivers, and local police. The parties agree that:

1. All school staff members are under obligation to report any and all incidents of the possession and use of weapons by any person on school grounds to the principal, or his/her designee and police immediately.
2. All school staff members are under obligation to report any and all incidents of aggravated assaults on other persons or school staff to the principal or his/her designee. The Principal, or his/her designee, will determine whether an assault is aggravated so as to constitute police involvement. Police will be notified by the principal or his/her designee.
3. The principal, or his/her designee, will coordinate all procedures in these matters with police and will report said incidents to the superintendent or designee.
4. Upon a report of said incidents, the police department will conduct an investigation with school officials to determine what course of action will be taken. The parents of persons subject to an investigation will be notified by the school officials immediately.
5. Where appropriate, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Attorney General's Law Enforcement subcommittee's policy, police will pursue criminal action against said persons.

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6. School staff members will cooperate with prosecuting authorities as persons charged with such offenses. This may include revealing information to police and testifying at proceedings when necessary.
7. The Juvenile Department of the police will record all occurrences in a log entitled "Violence in Schools". Such record will include the nature of the incident, school official and law enforcement efforts and the disposition of the case, if any.
8. The school will keep a similar running log of all such incidents.
9. The police department may notify school officials of arrests of persons made if it appears that person arrested and victim attended the same school. Police may notify the school the first school day following the incident.
10. Any suspicions of weapons or assault incidents must be reported to the principal or his/her designee immediately. The principal, or his or her designee, shall share this information with the local police immediately when such suspicion presents a dangerous situation.
11. School Administration and Law Enforcement will share such important information in prevention of future violence.
12. The procedures contained in this policy should be consistent with a zero tolerance for violence in schools.

This represents an agreement between Law Enforcement and School Officials to effectuate an open line of communication to better deal with and prosecute those persons who pose a threat to the safety of students in schools.

Adopted: November 17, 1995

Amended: June 3, 2009