



SAFETY POLICIES REVIEW

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL – AUGUST 23, 2022



DANGEROUS WEAPONS - BOARD POLICY 8400 / MICHIGAN LAW

- Board Policy 8400 prohibits weapons on school property.
- **Mandatory Expulsion for Dangerous Weapon**
 - Michigan law **requires** expulsion of a student who possesses a dangerous weapon on school ground – any firearm and certain knives. MCL 380.1311; MCL 380.1313.

THREAT ASSESSMENT – BOARD POLICY 8400

- Board Policy 8400 includes Threat Assessment.
 - This is designed to be consistent with the process set forth in the US Secret Service and Department of Homeland Security publication (Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence).
- Board Policy 8400 **requires reporting to the Superintendent or Principal.**
 - Employees, volunteers, and other school community members must immediately report to the Superintendent or Principal any expression of intent to harm another person or other statements or behaviors that suggest a student may intend to commit an act of violence.

THREAT ASSESSMENT – BOARD POLICY 8400

- The Threat Assessment Team will meet when then principal learns a student has:
 - Made a threat of violence or
 - Engages in concerning communications or behaviors that suggest the likelihood of a threatening situation.
- The threat assessment team includes:
 - The principal,
 - school counselor,
 - school psychologist,
 - instructional personnel, and
 - SRO.
- The threat assessment team may also include others, such as a third-party mental health provider or family school liaison.

WARNING SIGNS – AG 8410A / AG 8410B / AG 8410C

- Administrative Guideline 8410a identifies **early warning signs**, including:
 - Expression of violence in writings and drawings.
 - Uncontrolled anger.
 - Inappropriate access to, possession of, and use of firearms.
 - Threats of violence.
- Administrative Guideline 8410b identifies **imminent warning signs**, including:
 - Serious physical fighting with peers or family members.
 - Severe destruction of property.
 - Severe rage for seemingly minor reasons
 - Detailed threats of lethal violence.
 - Possession and/or use of firearms and other weapons.
 - Other self-injurious behaviors or threats of suicide.

WARNING SIGNS – AG 8410A / AG 8410B / AG 8410C

- Administrative Guideline 8410b requires immediate intervention by school authorities and law enforcement when a student has presented a detailed plan to harm or kill others or if a student is carrying a weapon and has threatened to use it.
- Administrative Guideline 8410b also requires that parents be informed in situations where students present other threatening behaviors.
- Administrative Guideline 8410c addresses the principles underlying intervention:
 - Coordinate services with the school, law enforcement, mental health agencies.
 - Inform parents when early warning signs are observed.
 - Provide District staff with the capacity to intervene and respond to warning signs.
 - Make interventions as early as possible.
 - Use sustained, multiple, coordinated interventions.
 - Build upon and coordinate internal school resources.

THREAT ASSESSMENT FORM - 8400

- This form documents a student-posed safety threat and the District's response. This form contains information the Threat Assessment Team considers when conducting a threat assessment including:
 - Threat details.
 - Information about the student including any diagnoses or other critical information such as discipline history, prior incidents or threats.
 - Immediate response, including:
 - Notification of law enforcement.
 - Notification of parents.
 - Whether lockdown was implemented.

THREAT ASSESSMENT FORM - 8400

- Assessment by District mental health professionals of the student's:
 - Motivation.
 - Mental state.
 - Communication to others, which could include social media.
 - Access to weapons.
 - Family dynamics.
 - Concerns of others or collateral information.
 - Circumstances affecting possibility of attack.

- Removing/Securing the Student:
 - Emergency removal from school.
 - Hospitalization.
 - Arrest/Detained by law enforcement.

THREAT ASSESSMENT FORM - 8400

- In-Depth Mental Health Assessment as part of the long-term response, including:
 - Particular triggering events.
 - Interest in sensationalist violence/violent entertainment.
 - Turbulent family dynamics.
 - Access to weapons.
 - Media/Technology use.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Constitutional Violations
- Title IX
- Child Protection Law
- IDEA
- FERPA

SEARCH AND SEIZURE – BOARD POLICY 577I / AG 577I

- A request to search a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the principal.
- The principal shall attempt to obtain the freely-offered consent of the student to the inspection; however, provided there is reasonable suspicion, s/he may conduct the search without such consent.
- **Reasonable suspicion** for a search means grounds sufficient to cause an adult of normal intellect to believe that the search of a particular person, place, or thing will lead to:
 - The discovery of evidence that the student has violated or is violating a rule or behavioral norm contained in the student handbook;
 - has violated or is violating a particular law;
 - **possesses an item or substance which presents an immediate danger of physical harm** or illness to students and staff or District property.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE – BOARD POLICY 577I / AG 577I

- Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the principal in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the principal.
- A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.
- Search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened.

EMERGENCY REMOVAL FROM SCHOOL – BOARD POLICY 5610 / AG 5610

- Emergency removal of a student may be warranted in accordance with Board Policy 5610.
 - Procedures for student discipline in this policy will be followed for emergency removal, suspension, and expulsion.
 - As noted above, Michigan law **requires** expulsion of a student who possesses a dangerous weapon – any firearm and certain knives.