

**Discipline protocol for determining self-defense:** The person claiming self-defense must:

1. be without fault in provoking or bringing on the fight or incident;
2. have reasonably feared, under the circumstances as they appeared to him, that he was in danger of harm; and
3. have used no more force than was necessary to protect him from the threatened harm.

Bringing a weapon of any kind to school for the purpose of self-defense is prohibited. Self-defense does not constitute a valid defense against the possession or use of a weapon on school property or at any school-sponsored activity.

The following outline of process is suggested for principals to use when dealing with situations involving fights:

- Ask the student –
  - What did you do to avoid the fight?
  - Did you say “this should be taken to the principal” or “you did not want to fight”?
  - Did you turn and try to walk away?
  - Were you “sucker punched” or jumped from behind?
  - Did you engage in verbal confrontation before the fight began?
  - Were you backed into a corner with no way to escape?
- Make sure the students are provided due process –
  - Tell them specifically what rule or policy was violated.
  - Make sure you ask for the student’s version of what happened.
  - Make sure you inform them that they have a right to make an appeal (If the Assistant Principal issues the discipline, the first appeal is to the principal and then to the hearing officer).