

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN BREAKING UP A FIGHT

Be prepared: Know and follow the school policy, know likely antecedents for aggression, have a plan, rehearse the plan.

1. **Think fast**...get help if you have time, or send for help.
2. Use your voice first. **ONLY** Intervene physically when it is necessary to prevent injury.
3. When possible, always use a two or more person restraint.
4. Use only the amount of force necessary to establish safety.
5. Once holding a student, do not release the hold until you have complete control of the situation.
6. Keep talking calmly to the student – do not yell.
7. If the student is struggling, or appears too dangerous to move, take the student to a wall or the floor with a safe and secure restraint. Keep talking.
8. Never lift a student from the floor. They lose their sense of equilibrium, become disoriented and may fight harder.
9. Communicate with assisting staff: one person take the lead guiding others. Male staff should not assume that female staff members are in dire need of your taking control just because she is female.
10. Document the incident as soon as possible. Accurately describe the circumstances, why it was necessary to intervene, exactly how you intervened, and student responses to your actions. If there were any injuries, describe the injury and how it occurred.

Remember: There is no sure or correct response that will apply to every possible circumstance. Teachers may be vulnerable for failing to act, or for acting inappropriately. Think...“What would a reasonable person do, or expect me to do?”