

WUSA 9 NEWS



DC PUBLIC SCHOOL
 Their Future Is
CONNECT!

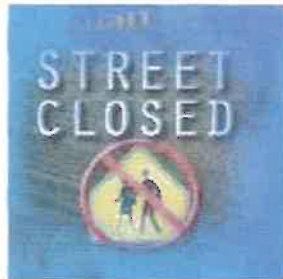
News Weather Traffic Sports

Home
 Newslinks
 Video **
 Health
 JC & Friends
 Community
 Programming
 Petline 9
 News Team
 About Us
 Career Center
 Inside
 Washington
 Buddy Check 9
 Advertise With Us
 News Tips

Street Closed

Written by 9 News

Last Updated: 3/31 2004 11:11:00 PM



How'd you like it if a principal punished your child for something he or she did off school property?

That's exactly what happened in Northwest, where more than a dozen students were dealt a harsh penalty, just for walking home the wrong way.

Fifteen-year-old Ernest Flores had the day off from school Wednesday, as well as the rest of the week. It is not a vacation, but a suspension, because he was caught walking down the wrong street.

Flores is one of the 400 plus kids that attend Francis Junior High in Northwest.

For the past two years, the students have been ordered not to walk down N Street or O Street, partly because residents complained.

But on Monday, Flores, who recently transferred to Francis, along with more than a dozen kids walked down the forbidden public street.

They were rounded up by a police officer, brought back to school and suspended for three days.

School Principal Courtney Fletcher has been at Francis Junior High for 30 years. He says he even drives his own car at dismissal time to watch over the kids safety as they leave.

Fletcher is not apologizing for his policy or his punishment. But he does have the legal right to ban kids from a public street?

He thinks he does. And although it is easy to notice the prohibited streets are lined with pricey houses, the president of the school's PTA insists this is not about caving in to rich folks who want to keep minority kids out of their neighborhoods.

School principal Dr. Fletcher says the real issue is that the students defied his rules and that is why they were suspended.

It's still unclear whether Fletcher has the legal authority to enforce rules outside the school building.

To learn more on this story, click "Play Video."

Related Video **

[Play Video](#)

[E-mail To a Friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

Search



MATTRESS Warehouse
Sleep Center

© Copyright 2004, WUSA & Gannett Co., Inc.
 4100 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC 20015
[Terms of Service](#)