



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1
Status	Second Reading
Adopted	September 24, 2007
Last Revised	September 27, 2021

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession, carrying, using or passing of a weapon in the school setting is a threat to the safety of the students and staff, presents a health hazard for the entire school community, and is prohibited by law. Further, the Board recognizes that the selling, using, or passing of explosive devices by a student also presents a hazard.

Definitions

A **weapon** shall include but is not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nun-chuck stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle, tear gas, pepper mace, mace and any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury or an instrument used in a manner to intimidate, injure, or cause fear of injury to a person will be identified as a “weapon.”

The term **weapon** shall also include items which are replicas or look-alike weapons (capable of causing one to believe it is a weapon) whether or not actually capable of inflicting bodily injury, and whether or not sold as toys. Examples of such items include, but are not limited to, toy guns, blank guns, paint ball guns, starter pistols, models, replicas, pellet gun, BB guns/pistols, CO-2 guns/pistols, fake knives, replicated military devices, etc.

A student is in **possession** of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student, in the student’s locker, under the student’s control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school. **Possessing** also includes to have in his/her effects, included but not limited to back packs, gym bags, articles of clothing, shoes/boots, books, purses, etc., and to have in a vehicle driven or ridden, such as bus, car, bicycle, etc.

Authority

The Board prohibits any district student from carrying, using, passing, or having possession of a weapon or a look-alike weapon on school property, at school-sponsored functions, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored function, or while the student is coming to or from school.

The Board shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons' policy. Such expulsions shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law or Board policy; however, the Superintendent may recommend modification of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

This policy also applies to all non-district students using district facilities and/or transportation. Violation of the policy by non-district students will result in denial of use of facilities and transportation and notification of the student's supervisor or non-public school authority.

Delegation of Responsibility

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the District will take all necessary steps to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedure set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement, and Board policies.

The Superintendent or designee will promptly report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy as well as incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored function, to the students' parents/guardians and to local law enforcement officials that have jurisdiction over the school's property. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials and the district's emergency preparedness plan.

The Superintendent or designee will report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.

The Superintendent or designee will be responsible to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form.

When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, and community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative regulations to be followed.

Guidelines

The Building Principal shall annually inform students, staff, and parents/guardians about the Board policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of the school community.

A student who is found to be carrying, using, or having possession of a weapon or a look-alike weapon, or is found to be selling, using, or possessing explosive devices capable of inflicting bodily harm will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including a disciplinary hearing before the Board of School Directors.

If a student is expelled for a weapons' policy violation, upon return to school, the student will be subject to random searches for weapons.

Law enforcement personnel certified and authorized to carry weapons are exempt from this policy.

In accordance with the Federal Gun Free Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Transfer Students

When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.

Legal

- 7. 22 PA Code 10.23
- 8. Pol. 103.1
- 9. Pol. 113.2
- 10. 113.3
- 11. Pol. 805.1
- 12. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
- 13. Pol. 805
- 1. 24 P.S. 1302-E
- 15. Pol. 236.1
- 16. 24 P.S. 1303-A
- 17. 22 PA Code 10.2
- 18. 22 PA Code 10.21
- 19. 22 PA Code 10.25
- 20. 18 U.S.C. 921
- 21. 18 U.S.C. 922
- 22. Pol. 200
- 20 U.S.C. 7114
- 20 U.S.C. 7151
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 2. 18 U.S.C. 921