



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1
Status	Active
Adopted	May 16, 2006

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Definitions

Weapon - the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, martial arts device, firearm, air rifle, pistol, slingshot device, explosive device, replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.[1]

According to statute, weapon shall be defined as a device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length.[2]

Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; in the student's vehicle; 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.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school sponsored activity.[1]

The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.[1][3]

Delegation of Responsibility

In the case of an exceptional student, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with I.D.E.A.[4]

The Superintendent or designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the student's parents and to local law enforcement officials.[1]

The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.[1]

The Superintendent or designee shall 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.[5]

Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.[5]

Guidelines

Students, staff and parents shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.[1]

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.

Before any student found in violation of this policy may be readmitted to school, a conference involving parents and school officials shall be held to determine if any guidelines for readmittance are necessary.

As a condition of readmission to school, the following items shall be considered:

1. Recommendation for outside counseling.
2. Referral to the SAP team.
3. Referral to a school counselor.

Any student discovered, without previous plan or knowledge, that s/he is in possession of a weapon as defined shall:

1. Immediately report the weapon to a school official.
2. Not be in jeopardy of the discipline code unless it can be shown the student had knowledge of the weapon prior to his/her admitted discovery.

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.[1]

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1317.2
2. **Pol. 113.1**
3. **Pol. 233**
4. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
5. 24 P.S. 1303-A