



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Number	218.1
Status	Active
Adopted	April 26, 2011

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.

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the safety and security of persons in the schools of this district and to ensure a wholesome learning environment. In accomplishing this purpose, the school district shall comply fully with the due process rights of its students.

Definitions

Weapon - the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, look-alike, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.[1]

Possession - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; and 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 and Board policy. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.[1][2]

Delegation of Responsibility

In the case of a student with disabilities, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and follow Board policy.[1][3][4]

The Superintendent or designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the student's parents/guardians 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 Board policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.[\[5\]](#)

Guidelines

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

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative regulations to be followed.[\[1\]](#)

Law enforcement officers may possess weapons on district property only when on duty, in official uniform, with a badge and identification in view.

In accordance with federal law, 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.[\[6\]](#)
[\[7\]](#)

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. 233
	3. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
	4. Pol. 113.1
	5. 24 P.S. 1303-A
	6. 18 U.S.C. 921
	7. 18 U.S.C. 922
	22 PA Code 403.1
	20 U.S.C. 7151
	20 U.S.C. 7114
	18 Pa. C.S.A. 912
	34 CFR Part 300