



SECTION: STUDENTS

POLICY: 218.1

TITLE: WEAPONS OFFENSE

ORIGINAL: November 5, 2018

CURRENT REVISION: December 13, 2021

LAST REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE:

I. PURPOSE

The Board of School Directors joins the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the United States Congress in expressing concern about the culture of violence and fear that is arising in our public schools. All students, teachers, and other school personnel have the right to teach and learn together in an environment free from the threat of violence and injury. The Board adopts this policy with the intent to implement in full the requirements of state and federal laws concerning the possession, handling, or transmission of weapons on school premises, at any school-sponsored activities, or on any public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school sponsored activity. The Board does not intend this policy to expand any right or responsibility of any party beyond those requirements.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Weapon** - the term weapon shall include, but not be limited to any knife; cutting instrument; cutting tool; nunchakus; brass knuckles; firearm; shotgun; rifle; bows and arrows; noxious, irritating, or poisonous gas; and any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily harm.
- B. **Facsimile weapon** - The term facsimile weapon shall include all objects, instruments, or implements resembling or intended to resemble a weapon.
- C. **Possessing** - student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker or assigned storage area; under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school event held away from school property, or while the student is coming to or from school.

III. POLICY

- A. A student shall not knowingly possess, handle, bring or transmit any object that is or can reasonably be considered a weapon or facsimile weapon on school premises, at any school-sponsored activities, or on any public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity. Any student determined to have possessed, handled, brought or transmitted a weapon onto school premises, at any school-sponsored activities, or on any public or private conveyance, providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year. The District Superintendent may, however, recommend a lesser discipline on a case-by-case basis and shall state his or her reasons therefore in writing.

- B. The District Superintendent shall, in the case of an exceptional student (i.e., a student with an IEP), take all steps necessary to comply with applicable law.
- C. Reporting Requirements
 - a. Local Law Enforcement
 - i. The district Superintendent or designee shall immediately report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the police department with jurisdiction of the school's property in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement, and Board policy.
 - b. Department of Education
 - i. The district Superintendent or designee shall, by July 31, report to the Department of Education all incidents involving possession of a weapon in violation of this policy to the Department of Education Office for Safe Schools on the required form.
 - c. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian whether or not local law enforcement has been notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts to contact the parent/guardian.
- D. Alternative Education
 - a. Nothing in this policy shall be constructed as limiting the authority or duty of the District to make alternative assignment or to provide alternative educational services during the period of expulsion.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

- A. The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information concerning possession of a weapon. 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.
- B. When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

V. REFERENCES

24 P.S. §13-1317.2.
24 P.S. 1303-A
24 P.S. 1302-E
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.
22 PA Code 403.1
18 Pa. C.S.A. 912
18 U.S.C. 921
18 U.S.C. 922
34 CFR Part 300
Pol. 103.1
Pol. 113.1
Pol. 236.1