

### WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Students shall not possess firearms, facsimiles of firearms, weapons, or dangerous instruments of any kind on school grounds or buildings, not on school buses, nor on any school-related or school-sponsored activity away from school facilities. Firearms, weapons, and dangerous instruments shall include those defined by law. (18 U.S.C. 921, C.G.S. 53a-3, and 53-202 to 53-206 and 29-35). Pursuant to federal law, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or destructive device. A student who violates this policy will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

Possession of or bringing such weapons or devices on school grounds or other areas under the control of the Board of Education may also be violation of criminal law, and therefore any violation of this policy shall be reported immediately to the local law enforcement agency, the Board of Education, and, if possible, the parent or guardian. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as possible court action. A student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process or violative of the Board's publicized policies may also be grounds for expulsion. A student found to be in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon, as defined by law, shall be subject to an expulsion of one calendar year. The expulsion period may be modified on a case by case basis. To comply with federal law, any findings of an exception shall be reduced to writing.

Any dangerous device or weapon may be seized by an employee of the school system under the power granted to the Board of Education to maintain order and discipline in the schools, and to protect the safety of students, staff and the public.

Every employee seizing any weapon or dangerous instrument under the provisions of this policy shall report the incident to the building principal immediately, and deliver the seized device to the principal, together with the names of persons involved, witnesses, location and circumstances of the seizure.

If any employee knows or has reason to suspect that a student has possession of such a device but the device has not been seized, the employee shall report the matter to the principal immediately, and the principal shall take such action as is appropriate. The principal shall report all violations of this policy to the Superintendent or designee, and to the local law enforcement agency on approval of the Superintendent or designee.

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**Students in violation of this policy shall be subject to the following disciplinary measures:**

1. Possession of a firearm, dangerous instrument, or dangerous weapon as defined by law:
  - A. 10-day suspension
  - B. Referral to law enforcement agency
  - C. Consideration for Expulsion Hearing
2. Possession of a facsimile of a firearm:
  - A. 10-day suspension
  - B. Referral to law enforcement agency
  - C. Consideration for Expulsion Hearing
3. Possession and use of any instrument in a manner to inflict bodily harm or to intimidate threaten:
  - A. 10-day suspension
  - B. Referral to law enforcement agency
  - C. Consideration for Expulsion Hearing
4. Possession of any dangerous instrument will result in a suspension up to five days.

Students and parents or guardians shall be notified of this policy annually.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion, Due Process)

(cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules  
10-233a through 10-233f – Expulsion  
53a-3 Definitions  
53a-217b – Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds  
53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons  
PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety  
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act  
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions  
USCA 7151 – No Child Left Behind Act