

Twin Valley School District

No. 218.3, 818

SECTION(S): Operations
 TITLE: Weapons
 ADOPTED: February 1995
 REVISED: March 19, 2012

1		218.3, 818 WEAPONS	1
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3	1. Purpose	The Twin Valley School District recognizes that the possession of	3
4		weapons on school property is a criminal offense in the	4
5		Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Twin Valley School District	5
6		also recognizes that the use of weapons has become a serious	6
7		problem in schools and in society. Weapons in the schools present	7
8		serious legal, safety and welfare problems to the school community.	8
9		As an educational institution, the district will strive to prevent the	9
10		presence of weapons in the schools. However, when weapons are	10
11		found in the schools, the district will, consistent with the	11
12		Pennsylvania crimes code violations citing, intervene to remove the	12
13		weapons, and prosecute and/or discipline those individuals	13
14		responsible for handling the weapons.	14
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16	2. Authority	Possession of a weapon on school grounds, in school buildings or on	16
17	SC 510	school transportation is a crime in the Commonwealth of	17
18	24 P.S.	Pennsylvania. Possession of a weapon at school sponsored activities	18
19	§13.1317.2	also presents serious legal, safety and welfare problems to the	19
20	Act 26 of 1995	school community. Possession includes, but is not limited to, on	20
21		the person, or under the person's control, including his or her	21
22		purse, book bag, carryall, etc., locker or vehicle. Therefore, the	22
23		Twin Valley School District emphasizes that possessing a weapon,	23
24		or knowing and not properly reporting the possession of a weapon	24
25		in the buildings of, on the grounds of, at school sponsored activities,	25
26		or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any	26
27		elementary or secondary educational institution of the Twin Valley	27
28		School District is a serious violation of the rules and regulations of	28
29		the Twin Valley School District.	29
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31	Pa.C.S.A. §912	Exceptions consistent with 24 P.S. §13-1317.2 and Pa. C.S.A. §912	31
32		require prior written consent from the Superintendent unless it is a	32
33		weapon which is possessed by a police officer for lawful purpose.	33
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35		"Weapon" is defined to include but not limited to: "Any knife,	35
36		cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle	36
37		and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting	37
38		serious bodily injury." 24 P.S. §13-1317.2(G).	38
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40		This definition may be expanded to include an object that has the	40
41		appearance or characteristics of a weapon, such as toy guns, water	41
42	3. Definition	pistols, replicas of weapons, etc.	42
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44		Anyone having knowledge of a weapon on school premises must	44
45		immediately report the incident to the administrator in charge.	45
46		Professional staff members should not attempt to seize a weapon if	46
47		the risk exists for bodily harm. School personnel who supply	47
48		information relating to this policy are immune from prosecution as	48
49		defined in Commonwealth law.	49
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1	4. Guidelines	Any such weapon found on or about a person while on school	1
2		district property is subject to immediate seizure and notification of	2
3		the police. Any adult possessing a weapon or assisting in the	3
4		possession of weapons by others will be legally charged for violation	4
5		of the policy and laws.	5
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7		Upon receiving a report of a weapon, the administrator will	7
8		thoroughly investigate the report, immediately notify the office of the	8
9		Superintendent and notify local police authorities as set forth in the	9
10		memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials,	10
11		and inform the student's parent/guardian.	11
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13		In the case of look-alike weapons, the administrator will notify the	13
14		Superintendent to determine the level of discipline to be taken.	14
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16		Whenever a weapons incident is reported, the Board will receive	16
17		notification that will not exceed 24 hours from the time of the	17
18		incident. In addition, the Superintendent will develop procedures	18
19		for implementation of this policy.	19
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21		Except as otherwise noted in the policy, a school district shall expel	21
22		for a period of not less than one year, any student who is	22
23		determined to have brought a weapon onto any school property, any	23
24		school-sponsored activity or any public conveyance providing	24
25		transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity.	25
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27		The Superintendent shall, in the case of an exceptional student,	27
28		take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with	28
29		Disabilities Education Act.	29
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31		The Superintendent of the school district may recommend discipline	31
32		short of the one-year expulsion on a case-by-case basis. The Board	32
33		must exclude for at least one year, unless it accepts a lesser term	33
34		recommended by the Superintendent.	34
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36		The Superintendent or designee shall annually, by July 31, report	36
37		all incidents involving acts of violence or possession of a weapon to	37
38		the Office of Safe Schools on the required form in accordance with	38
39		state law and regulation.	39
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41		When the school district receives a student who transfers from a	41
42		public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense	42
43		involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an	43
44		alternative assignment or may provide alternative education.	44
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