

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

Background

The Mt. Lebanon School Board recognizes that the physical safety of students, employees and visitors is essential for the proper operation of the schools and for the establishment of a positive environment for learning and seeks to prohibit any and all persons from possession or storing weapons on District property and at school events.

Objective

It is the objective of this policy to provide a safe environment free from weapons for students, school personnel and persons using and visiting school property and attending school events.

Definitions

The term “Weapon” shall include, but not be limited to, any knife, razor, razor blade or other cutting instrument or cutting tool, sharpened wood, sharpened metal, nun-chuck stick or other martial arts devise, brass or metal knuckles, club, metal pipe, blackjack, chemical agent such as mace, tazer, shocker or stun gun, any explosive or incendiary device, firearm, gun (including pellet guns and B.B. guns), slingshot, bow, arrow or any other similar device from which a projectile may be discharged, including a firearm or other weapon which is not loaded or which lacks a component or device necessary to render it immediately operable, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term “weapon” shall include “weapon look alikes,” including any instrument or implement designed to look like a weapon.

“Possess” and “possession” shall mean being on the person of any student, employee or visitor or in a person’s motor vehicle, locker or otherwise under his or her control.

Policy

It shall be the policy of the Board that possession of a weapon by students, employees or visitors is prohibited: on any Mt. Lebanon School District property (including buildings and grounds owned, leased or otherwise possessed by the District); in any vehicle located, at any time, on District property or at any District sponsored activity, function or event; at any District sponsored activity, function or event; by any student on his or her way to or from school; or in any conveyance providing transportation to a District property or to a District-sponsored activity, function or event, whether or not held on District property.

Students that violate the terms of this policy shall be expelled from school for not less than one year provided that the Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirements for a student on a case-by-case basis. In cases involving an exceptional student, the Superintendent shall take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

(Public Law 91-230, 20 USC.1400 et seq.). In addition, where warranted, such students shall be referred to the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system and the District shall report all violations of this policy as follows:

1. The Superintendent shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by 24 P.S. § 13-1317.2 to local law enforcement officials.
2. The Superintendent shall report to the Department of Education all incidents relating to expulsions for possession of a weapon on school grounds, school-sponsored activities or public conveyances providing transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity. Reports shall include all information as required under 24 P.S. § 1303-A.

In addition, students that violate this policy may be disciplined, suspended or expelled from school, in accordance with any other applicable laws and school policies, including, without limitation and policy JLI (School Violence, Terroristic Threats and Terroristic Acts), administrative procedures and codes of conduct applicable to student offenses.

Employees that violate this policy shall be disciplined as appropriate up to and including termination, in accordance with all applicable District disciplinary policies and procedures. Moreover, the District shall notify the appropriate public authorities (including but not limited to the police).

Visitors that violate this policy shall be referred to the appropriate public authorities (including but not limited to the police) by the District and the District may take any other action it deems appropriate when persons using and visiting school property or events violate this policy.

Exceptions

This policy shall not apply to:

1. Police and licensed and approved security personnel, including school resource officers, in the performance of their duties.
2. If authorized in writing by the Superintendent, weapons possessed and/or used as part of an approved program by individuals who are participating in the program (e.g., rifles for rifle team, starter pistol for track team, tools for technical and practical art classes, and guns and knives used in the fine arts productions).
3. Instruments or implements possessed and used by authorized maintenance and construction personnel in conjunction with performance of their duties.
4. If authorized in writing by the Superintendent, weapons possessed and/or used in connection with approved ceremonial events occurring on school property.

Administrative Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to develop any rules and regulations necessary to implement and enforce this policy.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to the public, to all persons applying for permits for the use of school premises and to all school district personnel, students and parents.

Adopted May 23, 1994
Revised August 21, 2000
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