

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

I. GENERALLY

A. No one, including students or employees, may bring, use, or possess any weapon, as defined in this policy, on school property, other than in certain of the limited circumstances specifically authorized by law, including:

- 1. Possession of a firearm or pneumatic gun as a part of the curriculum, or other program sponsored by the school or school division, or any organization permitted by ACPS to use its premises (e.g., JROTC);
2. Possession of a knife or blade customarily used for food preparation, food service or in a trade, while using it for such purpose (e.g., cafeteria staff, culinary arts students, repair/service personnel);
3. Possession of a weapon by any law enforcement officer (e.g., school resource officers) while engaged in his/her duties as such, or while providing security services on school property; or
4. Possession of a weapon by any Virginia Commonwealth Attorney or Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, or any Virginia judge or justice while engaged in his/her duties as such.

B. Those who are not students or employees may have certain weapons in their motor vehicles only under the following limited circumstances:

- 1. A knife, unloaded firearm in a closed container, or an unloaded shotgun on a gun rack; or
2. A concealed handgun accompanied by a valid permit while in a parking lot, traffic circle, or other vehicular ingress or egress to a school.

C. "School property" includes:

- 1. Property owned or controlled by the school division;
2. The portion of public property where and while school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities are taking place; and
3. On any vehicle owned or operated by, or for, the school division.

D. Weapons include, but are not limited to:

- Any pistol, shotgun, revolver, or other firearm listed in § 22.1-277.07(E), of the Code of Virginia, designed or intended to propel a projectile of any kind, including a rifle;
• Any stun weapon;
• Any air rifle or BB gun;
• Toy guns and look-alike guns;
• Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade, ballistic, machete, knife or razor;
• Slingshots;
• Spring sticks;
• Brass or metal knuckles;
• Blackjacks;
• Explosives;
• Destructive devices as defined in § 22.1-277.07(E) of the Code of Virginia or

- 48 other dangerous articles;
- 49 • Any disc of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades,
- 50 and which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a
- 51 throwing star or oriental dart; or
- 52 • Any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a
- 53 manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka,
- 54 nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain.

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56 **II. ALL STUDENTS**

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58 Carrying, bringing, using or possessing any firearm, dangerous device, or dangerous or

59 deadly weapon in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle or at any

60 school-sponsored activity without the authorization of the school or the School Division is

61 prohibited and grounds for disciplinary action. A student who has possessed a firearm,

62 destructive device, firearm muffler, firearm silencer, or pneumatic gun on school property or

63 at a school-sponsored activity may be expelled for at least one year in accordance with

64 Policy JGD/JGE Student Suspension/Expulsion. The School Board may determine, based on

65 the facts of a particular situation, that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action

66 or another disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. The School Board

67 may promulgate guidelines for determining what constitutes special circumstances. In

68 addition, the School Board may, by regulation, authorize the Superintendent or the

69 Superintendent’s designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine

70 whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. Violation of this policy

71 shall require that proceedings for the discipline of the student involved be initiated

72 immediately by the principal.

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74 **III. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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76 Students with disabilities are subject to the provisions of Section I of this policy and will be

77 subject to discipline in accordance with Policy JGDA and JGDB.

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- 79 Adopted: December 5, 1996
 - 80 Amended: July 10, 1997
 - 81 Amended: June 23, 1999
 - 82 Amended: July 6, 2000
 - 83 Amended: June 21, 2001
 - 84 Amended: June 19, 2003
 - 85 Amended: June 15, 2004
 - 86 Amended: June 15, 2006
 - 87 Amended: June 26, 2007
 - 88 Amended: July 1, 2011
 - 89 Amended: December 18, 2014
 - 90 Amended: December 20, 2018
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 - 92 Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2).
 - 93 20 U.S.C. § 415 (k)(1)(G)(i).

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95 Code of Virginia, §§ 18.2-308, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7, 22.1-277.07,
96 22.1-277.07:1.
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98 Wood v. Henry County Public Schools, 225 Va. 85, 495 S.E.2d 255 (1998).
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100 8 VAC 20-81-10.
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102 Cross Refs.: GBEB Staff Weapons in School
103 JGD/JGE Student Suspension/Expulsion
104 JFC Student Conduct
105 JGD/JGE Student Suspension/Expulsion
106 JGD-R/JGE-R Student Suspension/Expulsion Regulations
107 JGDA Disciplining Students with Disabilities
108 JGDB Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of
109 Serious Bodily Injury