

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

102 School Lane • Blairsville, PA 15717 • Phone 724-459-5500 • Fax 724-459-9209

Parental Registration Statement

Parents/Guardians registering students within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are required to complete this form in accordance with Pennsylvania School Code §13-1304.

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Pennsylvania School Code §13-1304-A states in part "Prior to admission to any school entity, the parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of a student shall, upon registration provide a sworn statement or affirmation stating whether the pupil was previously or is presently suspended or expelled from any public or private school of this Commonwealth or any other state for an action of offense involving a weapon, alcohol or drugs, or for the willful infliction of injury to another person or for any act of violence committed on school property."

Please complete the following:

I hereby swear or affirm that my child:

- was was not previously suspended, expelled, or subject to a separation agreement, or
 is is not presently suspended, expelled, or subject to a separation agreement

from any public or private school of this Commonwealth or any other state for an act or offense involving weapons, alcohol or drugs, or for the willful infliction of injury to another person or for any act of violence committed on school property. I make this statement subject to the penalties of 24 P.S. §13-1304-A(b) and 18 Pa. C.S.A. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities, and the facts contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

If this student has been or is presently suspended or expelled from another school, please complete:

Name of the school from which student was suspended or expelled: _____

Dates of suspension or expulsion: _____

Reason for suspension/expulsion: _____

(Please provide additional schools and dates of expulsion or suspension on back of this sheet.)

I/WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT ANY FALSE STATEMENT HEREIN WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF ACT 26 OF 1995 AND SHALL BE A MISDEMEANOR OF THE THIRD DEGREE, AND WOULD ALSO CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CRIMES CODE, TITLE 18, CONSOLIDATED PENNSYLVANIA STATUTES, 1 PA.C.S.A. § 4903 AND § 4904, AS AMENDED, AND COULD SUBJECT ME TO A FINE OF UP TO \$5,000.00 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO 2 YEARS OR BOTH.

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Date)

ACT 26 INFORMATION

Act 26 (24 P.S. § 13-1317.2) is a Pennsylvania law which requires the expulsion for at least one year of any student who possesses a weapon on school property, at a school function, or going to and from school.

Who is affected by Act 26?

Any student who possesses a weapon in school, or at a school activity, or going to and from school (including on public transit), must be expelled for at least one year under this law. The student does not have to use the weapon (or even intend to use it); it is enough to carry it, keep it in a locker or book bag, or hold it for a friend.

What is a weapon?

A weapon is defined by Act 26 as "any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and [anything else] capable of inflicting serious bodily injury." This definition may include box cutters, kitchen knives, pen knives on key chains, and other common household items. A narrower definition is used for cases involving special education students.

What is the difference between a suspension, expulsion, and a separation agreement?

A **suspension** exclusion from school for a period of from 1 to 10 consecutive school days.

An **expulsion** is exclusion from school by the governing board for a period exceeding 10 school days and may be permanent expulsion from the school rolls.

A **separation agreement** is a formal agreement between the parent/guardian and the school district that provides the offending student with an alternative educational placement for the duration of the agreement.

Will the police be notified?

Yes. Act 26 requires school officials to notify the police whenever they discover any weapon covered by the Act. This does not mean that the police must arrest the student.

What happens to a student who has been expelled?

When a student is expelled, if the student is under 17 and cannot find another school to attend within 30 days of the expulsion, the student's family must notify the school district in writing of the need for a program. It is then the school district's duty to provide the student with an educational program. A student in special education has the right to continue receiving special education services up until graduation or age 21, even if expelled. Those services would just have to be delivered outside of the regular school setting.

Does a student's family have to tell a new school district about an expulsion or disciplinary problems at another school?

Yes. Act 26 also requires that whenever a student registers in a new school district, the student's "parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of a student" must fill out a form stating whether the student has ever been suspended or expelled from any public or private school in any state for offenses involving weapons, drugs, alcohol, willful injury to another person, or violence on school grounds. This form is called a "Parental Registration Statement." Once the Parental Registration Statement is completed, the student must be admitted and provided with an education on the same terms as other students in that district. The only exception to this requirement is that a student expelled from one public school district for an Act 26 weapons offense may be excluded from the new district and placed in an alternative assignment for the duration of the old district's expulsion.