

## POSSESSING WEAPONS

### Definitions

This policy defines the following:

- *Dangerous weapon* means, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930(g)(2), a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length.
- *Firearm* means, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, (1) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (4) any destructive device. The term does not include an antique firearm.
- *School property* is as defined in NDCC 15.1-19-10(6)(c) as all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by a school district, and the site of any school-sponsored event or activity.

### Prohibitions

Students are prohibited from possessing on school property or at a school function a firearm, dangerous weapon, or any object that is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used to intimidate or cause bodily harm.

### Disciplinary Consequences

Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Bringing a firearm to school will require that the District immediately suspend the student and initiate proceedings for the expulsion of the student involved for a minimum of one calendar year in accordance with the District's suspension and expulsion policy. The Administrator may modify the length of a firearms-related expulsion to less than one calendar year on a case-by-case basis based on the following criteria:

1. The totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the incident and the degree of endangerment of other students and staff.
2. The age and grade level of the student.
3. The prior disciplinary history of the student being expelled.
4. Relevant factors that contributed to the student's decision to possess a firearm in violation of this policy.
5. The recency and severity of prior acts resulting in suspension or expulsion.
6. Whether or not the optional provision of educational services in an alternative setting is a viable alternative to modifying the duration of the expulsion.
7. Input, if any, provided by licensed professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors) as to whether or not the expelled student would place themselves or

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others at risk by returning to the school prior to the expiration of the expulsion period.

Any modifications of the one calendar year expulsion period must be documented in writing.

Dangerous weapons will be confiscated and may be turned over to the student's parents or to law enforcement officials at the discretion of the administration. Firearms will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement.

The District must refer any student who possesses a firearm on school property or a school function to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system.

### **Special Education Students**

A student who is defined as having a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) who possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon on school property or at a school function shall be handled in accordance with IDEA regulations. The District shall make manifestation determinations, disciplinary decisions, referral decisions, and placement decisions of such students in accordance with IDEA regulations.

### **Non-applicable Provisions**

This policy does not apply to students enrolled and participating in a school-sponsored shooting sport, provided that the student informs the school Administrator of the student's participation, and the student complies with all requirements set by the Administrator regarding the safe handling and storage of the firearm. The Administrator may allow authorized persons to display dangerous weapons or look-a-likes for educational purposes. Such an approved display will be exempt from this policy.

A student who finds a firearm or dangerous weapon on the way to school, on or in school property or at a school function or discovers that they unknowingly have a firearm or dangerous weapon in their possession may not be considered to possess it if they immediately turn it over to an administrator, teacher or head coach or notify an administrator, teacher, or head coach of its location.

### **Reporting**

The District shall annually report compliance with all state expulsion requirements to the Department of Public Instruction. Each incident in which a student is found to have possessed a firearm on school property or at a school function must be reported as an infraction, even if the Administrator elects to modify the required expulsion period or impose no penalty. Any incidents in which a student covered by the provisions of the IDEA possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon on school property or at a school function must also be included, even if it is determined that the incident is a manifestation of the student's disability and that the penalties should be modified or not imposed. Any modification of the one-year expulsion requirement must also be reported.

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Complementing NDSBA Templates (may contain items not adopted by the Board)

- FFK, Suspension and Expulsion

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- FFK-BR, Suspension and Expulsion Regulations
- FFK-AR1, Suggested Procedure for Conducting an Expulsion Hearing
- FFK-AR2, Suspension and Expulsion for Special Education Students

**End of Yellowstone Policy FFD ..... Adopted: 10/16/23**