

Descriptor Term: WEAPONS

Descriptor Code: JCBC

Rescinds: JCBC

Board Approved: August 1, 2022

Previously Approved: August 1994

Except under the narrow circumstances outlined in this policy, the possession of firearms and other weapons on campus is prohibited and may constitute a felony in certain circumstances. No student, employee or visitor may possess a weapon on, in, or about school buildings, grounds, athletic fields or any other property used for school-related purposes. (No student, employee or visitor may possess or carry any weapon within a vehicle brought onto school property, or as provided by law. No student may possess or carry any weapon within a vehicle brought onto school property. Employees and visitors may lawfully possess or carry a firearm within a vehicle brought onto school property; however, the firearm may not be brandished, exhibited or displayed in a careless, angry or threatening manner. No employee or visitor may possess or carry any other type of weapon within a vehicle brought onto school property.)

I. DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WEAPONS

Prohibited weapons include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Gun, rifle, pistol, other firearm
2. Dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or other explosive
3. BB gun, air rifle, air pistol
4. Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, switchblade, pocketknife or other knife
5. Slingshot
6. Leaded cane, blackjack
7. Metallic or other artificial knuckles
8. Razors, razor blades
9. Any sharp-pointed or edged instrument (except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used only to prepare food or for instruction and maintenance of school property)
10. Any instrument having the effect or appearance of a weapon (including utensils, imitation firearms or knives, etc.)

II. PERMITTED USES

The Superintendent or Principal, as appropriate and in his/her discretion, may give prior approval for weapons to be on or about campus under the following circumstances:

1. Students and employees may possess weapons on school grounds only when the weapons are used for valid educational purposes or school-sanctioned ceremonies.

2. Law enforcement officers and other government officials may carry weapons onto school grounds as permitted by law.

III. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Any student who violates this policy will be suspended and recommended for expulsion in accordance with Policy JDE and JCBE.

Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy GBNA and GCN.

Any visitor who violates this policy will be asked to leave school property immediately and further action, including, but not limited to, filing criminal charges, may be taken as necessary.

Any person violating this policy may be subject to criminal action and penalties as provided in Miss. Code Ann. '97-37-17

IV. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

V. NOTICE

A copy of Mississippi Code 1972 '97-37-17 shall be posted in public view at each school in the District.

Sources: The Prevention of School Violence Act, S.B. 3349 (1994) Miss. Code Ann. '97-37-17 (Supp. 1994)

Office of the Attorney General, Opinion (Cantrell October 1, 2013)