



Contact:

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TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Ryan Ovenell, Deputy Superintendent
SUBJECT: First Reading of Updates to Board Policy 4210
DATE: August 6, 2024
TYPE: Action Required

This is the first reading of the update to Policy 4210: Regulations Of Dangerous Weapons On School Premises. Updates reflect changes recommended by the Washington State School Directors Association. It is identified as an essential policy by the Washington State School Directors Association.

The policy will come before the Board for second reading on August 20, 2024. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact me.

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REGULATION OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Unless authorized by this policy, it is a violation of district policy and state law for any person to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation or areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities, ~~or areas of facilities being used for official meetings of the school board.~~ The term "school premises, includes property, or portions(s) of property, owned, rented or leased by the District when the property, or portions(s) of property, is being used exclusively for school district activities.

The District superintendent is directed to see that all school facilities post "~~Weapons~~Gun-Free Zone" signs, and that all violations of this policy and RCW 9.41.280 are reported annually to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The District superintendent will post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possessing dangerous weapons at each facility being used for official meetings of the board.

~~Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to firearms, sling shots, sand clubs, metal knuckles, daggers, dirks, spring blade knives, nun-chu-ka sticks, throwing stars, air guns, stun guns, and devices intended to injure a person by an electric shock.~~

Dangerous Weapons

The term "dangerous weapons" under state law includes:

- Any firearm;
- Any device commonly known as "nun-chu-ka sticks," consisting of two or more length of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means;
- Any device, commonly known as "throwing stars," which are multi-pointed, metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect;
- Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas;
- Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun which projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse;
- Any device, object, or instrument which is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse;
- The following instruments:
 - Any dirk or dagger;
 - Any knife with a blade longer than three inches;
 - Any knife with a blade which is automatically released by a spring mechanism or other mechanical device;
 - Any knife having a blade which opens, or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity, or by outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement; and
 - Any razor with an unguarded blade;
- Any slung shot, sandbag, or sand club;
- Metal knuckles;
- A sling shot;
- Any metal pipe or bar used or intended to be used as a club;
- Any explosive;
- Any weapon containing poisonous or injurious gas;

- **Any implement or instrument which has the capacity to inflict death and from the manner in which it is used, is likely to produce or may easily and readily produce death.**

In addition, the District considers the following weapons in violation of this policy:

- **Any knife or razor not listed above, except for instruments authorized or provided for specific school activities;**
- **Any object other than those listed above which is used in a manner to intimidate, threaten, or injure another person and is capable of easily and readily producing such injury.**

Reporting Dangerous Weapons

Students

If District staff believe that a student has violated this policy, an appropriate school authority will promptly notify the student's parents or guardians and the appropriate law enforcement agency of known or suspected violations of this policy.

Students who have possessed a firearm on any school premises, school-provided transportation, school-sponsored activities at any facility or in areas of facilities while being used for official school board meetings shall be expelled for not less than one year pursuant to RCW 28A.600.420. The superintendent may modify the one-year expulsion for a firearm on a case-by-case basis. Further, the district may also suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice (as defined under RCW 9A.04.110) and displays a device that appears to be a firearm.

All expulsion and/or suspension and all other discipline of students who violate this policy will be subject to District Policy 3241 – Student Discipline.

Staff

If a District employee believes that another District employee has violated this policy, the employee will report his or her concerns to an appropriate school or District authority for further inquiry. Any disciplinary action of an employee who willfully violates this policy will be subject to District Policy 5280 – Separation From Employment.

Exceptions

The following persons may carry firearms into school buildings, as necessary, although students engaged in these activities are restricted to the possession of rifles on school premises:

- A. Persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or school district security activities;
- B. Persons involved in a school authorized convention, showing, demonstration, lecture or firearm safety course **authorized by the Superintendent;**
- C. Persons competing in school authorized firearm or air gun competitions **authorized by the Superintendent;** and
- D. Any federal, state or local law enforcement officer.

The following persons over eighteen years of age, **not employed by the District,** and not enrolled as students may have firearms in their possession on school property outside of school buildings **only under the following limited circumstances:**

- A. Persons with concealed weapons permits issued pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 who are picking up or dropping off students **or (2) attending official meetings of the school board held off District owned or leased property;** and
- B. Persons conducting legitimate business at the school and in lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon if the weapon is secured within an attended vehicle, is unloaded and secured in a vehicle, or is concealed from view in a locked, unattended vehicle. **Under RCW 9.41.050, no one may lawfully possess a loaded handgun in a vehicle unless the person has a valid concealed pistol permit.**

Persons may bring dangerous weapons, other than firearms, onto school premises if the weapons are lawfully within the person's possession and are to be used in a school-authorized **activity or class such as a martial arts class.**

Personal Protection Spray

Persons over eighteen years of age and persons between fourteen and eighteen years of age with written parental or guardian permission may possess personal protection spray devices on school property. No one under eighteen years of age may deliver such devices, nor may anyone eighteen years or older deliver a spray device to anyone under fourteen or to anyone between fourteen and eighteen who does not have parental permission.

~~Students who violate this policy are subject to district discipline policies, including the due process provisions regarding notification of parents. Students who violate the firearms provisions are subject to a minimum one calendar year expulsion, with possible case by case modification by the superintendent. The district shall also comply with federal protections for disabled students in the application of this policy.~~

~~The district may suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice, as defined under RCW 9A-04.110, and displays an instrument that appears to be a firearm on school premises, school provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being used exclusively for school activities.~~

Personal protection spray devices may not be used other than in self-defense as defined by state law. Possession, transmission or use of personal protection spray devices under any other circumstances is a violation of district policy.

~~School officials shall notify the parents/guardians, appropriate law enforcement agency of known or suspected violations of this policy. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to discipline, including a one year expulsion for a violation involving a firearm. However, the superintendent may modify the one year expulsion on a case by case basis.~~

Cross References:	Policy 3240	Student Conduct
	Policy 3241	Corrective Actions or Punishment
	<u>Policy 6112</u>	<u>Rental or Lease of District Real Property</u>
	<u>Policy 5281</u>	<u>Disciplinary Action and Discharge</u>
Legal References:	RCW 9.41.280	Dangerous weapons on school grounds
	RCW 9A.16.020	Use of force--when lawful
	<u>RCW 9.41.250</u>	<u>Dangerous weapons – Penalty</u>
	<u>RCW 9.41.280</u>	<u>Dangerous weapons on facilities – Penalty-Exceptions</u>
	RCW 9.91.160	Personal protection spray devices
	RCW 28A.600.420	Firearms on school premises, transportation, or facilities- Penalty – Exemptions
Management Resources:	<i>Policy News, October 1997 - Legislature also addresses “LAL” firearms</i>	
	<u>Policy News, 2022 – June Issue</u>	
	<u>Policy News, 2016 – July Issue</u>	
	<u>Policy News, August 2006 Weapons on School Premises</u>	
	<u>Policy News, August 1998 State Encourages Modification of Weapons</u> <u>Policy</u>	

Adoption Date: 12.19.2000
Stanwood-Camano School District Revised:
12.03.13; 11.06.18; 8.20.24