



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1
Status	Active
Adopted	November 19, 2012
Last Revised	May 19, 2025

### **Purpose**

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

### **Definitions**

**Weapon** - any tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury including but not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nun-chuck stick, star, firearm, BB gun, pellet gun, shotgun, rifle, pistol, replicas of weapons, objects which are capable of inflicting serious bodily injury and possessed under circumstances not manifestly appropriate for lawful use, and components which can readily be assembled into a weapon. Objects such as baseball bats and pencils, which have other legitimate uses but are capable of causing serious bodily injury, shall be deemed weapons if used to threaten, intimidate or inflict injury.[1][2]

Whether or not an object is loaded or lacks a clip or other component to render it immediately operable is irrelevant in the determination as to whether or not it constitutes a weapon.

**Possession** - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; and under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

### **Authority**

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity or while the student is coming to or from school.[2][3]

The Board shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law and Board policy.[2][4][5]

The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. Any such recommendation shall be accompanied by a justification for the recommendation based upon the specific circumstances of the student and the case. [\[2\]](#)

In the case of a student with disabilities, the district shall take all steps required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Board policy. [\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning weapons on school property. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulation and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials. [\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to local law enforcement officials and inform the student's parent/guardian. [\[14\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving acts of violence or possession of a weapon to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form in accordance with state law and regulation. [\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

### **Guidelines**

The building principal shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the Board policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the school community.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative regulations to be followed. [\[2\]](#)

In accordance with federal law, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. [\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

### **Transfer Students**

When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period. [\[2\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

Legal

- [1. 24 P.S. 1301-A](#)
- [2. 24 P.S. 1317.2](#)
3. Pol. 218
4. Pol. 113.1
5. Pol. 233
- [6. 22 PA Code 10.23](#)
- [7. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)
8. Pol. 103.1
9. Pol. 113.2

10. Pol. 113.3  
11. Pol. 805.1  
[12. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)  
13. Pol. 805  
[14. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)  
[15. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)  
[16. 22 PA Code 10.21](#)  
[17. 18 U.S.C. 921](#)  
[18. 18 U.S.C. 922](#)  
19. Pol. 200  
[24 P.S. 1302-E](#)  
[22 PA Code 10.25](#)  
[22 PA Code 403.1](#)  
[18 Pa. C.S.A. 912](#)  
[20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)  
[20 U.S.C. 7114](#)  
[20 U.S.C. 7961](#)  
[34 CFR Part 300](#)  
Pol. 236.1