
Weapons in School

Mapleton Public Schools believes that possession and/or use of weapons by students is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the District.

Dangerous Weapons

Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a dangerous weapon on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event, without the authorization of the school or the District, is prohibited. An exception to this policy may be made for students participating in an authorized extracurricular activity or team involving the use of firearms.

As used in this policy, "dangerous weapon" means:

1. A firearm, whether loaded or unloaded;
2. Any pellet, BB gun, or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air;
3. A fixed blade knife with a blade that measures longer than three inches in length, or a spring-loaded knife, or a pocketknife with a blade longer than three and one-half inches; and
4. Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury.

The school director may initiate expulsion proceedings for students who carry, bring, use, or possess a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy. In accordance with federal law, expulsion shall be mandatory for no less than one full calendar year for a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to or possessed a firearm at school in violation of this policy. The Superintendent may modify the length of expulsion in writing on a case-by-case basis in extraordinary situations, including cases involving students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal law.

Firearm Facsimiles

Carrying, using, actively displaying, or threatening with a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-

sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when such conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or District is prohibited. Students who violate this policy provision may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion.

A student may seek prior authorization from the school director to carry, bring, use, or possess a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property for purposes of a school-related or non-school-related activity. A student's failure to obtain such prior authorization is a violation of this policy provision and may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion. The school director's decision to deny or permit a student to carry, bring, use, or possess a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property shall be final.

School administrators shall consider violations of this policy provision on a case-by-case basis to determine whether suspension, expulsion, or any other disciplinary action is appropriate based upon the individual facts and circumstances involved.

Local Restrictions

Mapleton Public Schools determines that extra precautions are important and necessary to provide for student safety. Therefore, the carrying, bringing, using, or possessing any *knife*, regardless of the length of the blade, or any other substance or object, regardless of its intended purpose, used in a manner that may render them dangerous to the user or others, on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without express authorization is prohibited. Students who violate this policy provision shall be referred for appropriate disciplinary proceedings.

Recordkeeping

The District shall maintain records that describe the circumstances involving expulsions of students who bring weapons to school, including the name of the school, the number of students expelled, and the types of weapons involved, as required by law.

Referral to Law Enforcement

In accordance with applicable law, school personnel shall refer any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school without authorization of the school or the District to law enforcement.

Adopted March 26, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

18 U.S.C. §921 (a)(3) (*federal definition of "firearm"*)

20 U.S.C. §7151 (*Gun-Free Schools Act*)

20 U.S.C. §7151 (h) (*requiring schools to have policies requiring referral to law enforcement*)

C.R.S. § 18-1-901 (3)(h) (*state law definition of "firearm"*)

C.R.S. § 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(I)(G) (*policy required as part of safe schools plan*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-102 (4) (*definition of dangerous weapon*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-106 (1) (*grounds for suspension, expulsion, denial of admission*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-106 (1)(f) (*must adopt policy regarding firearm facsimiles*)

CROSS REFERENCES:

JK-2: Discipline of Students with Disabilities

JKD/JKE: Suspension/Expulsion of Students

KFA: Public Conduct on School Property