

Weapons – Possession and Use

Purpose

This regulation is intended to comply with section 1303.2-A of the Pennsylvania School Code, which requires the District to send a notification in the event an incident involving possession of a weapon occurs on District property, on District-provided transportation, or at a District-sponsored activity.

Definitions

Incident involving a weapon - any incident which violates the District's weapons policies or state law that involves possession of a weapon as defined in Board policy and state law.

Weapon - the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

For purposes of this policy, weapons do not include items that are approved by the Superintendent or designee in advance for use in a pre-approved District program that would otherwise constitute a weapon under this policy. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- Utensils used for eating
- Tools and equipment used in their intended capacity in District classes and activities

General Notifications

In the event an incident involving a weapon occurs, the District will issue a general notification within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident in the following contexts:

- *On a District campus.* A notification shall be issued to the parents/guardians of students and to employees in a District program in District building in which the incident occurred, in accordance with statutory requirements.

In the event a District program shares building space with another school entity, as a courtesy, the District shall also notify the lead administrator or designee of the school entity in that space.

- *At a District-sponsored event.* A notification shall be issued to the parents/guardians of students in and employees of the District program or class involved in the event.
- *On District transportation.* A notification shall be issued to the appropriate population of parents, guardians, and employees, in line with the statutory requirements for school entities.

This notification shall inform recipients that there was an incident involving the possession of a weapon. This notification may not include any information that could lead to the identification of any student involved.

Notifications to Assigned Employees

If the incident involves a student possessing a weapon, the school employees to whom that student is assigned (e.g. their classroom teachers, school counselor, etc.) shall receive a notice that includes the student's identity and any other relevant information from the student's record regarding the incident. These notifications are FERPA protected, and may not be shared with unauthorized parties.