



# BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Dr. Stephen P. Puskar, Superintendent**

February 19, 2026

Act 44 of 2025 added section 1303.2-A to the Pennsylvania School Code and established parent and employee notification requirements for school districts. This added section to the PA School Code requires notification to parents and employees of the school when a weapon of any type is found in possession while on school property, a location where a school-sponsored activity is conducted or while on a school bus. The law further states that when there is more than one school on the same campus, parents and employees in all schools are to be notified.

With regard to the new requirements of Act 44, the purpose of this notification is to make you aware of an incident at the Burgettstown Area Elementary Center this morning. BASD Policy #218.1 indicates that a weapon "...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." A student at the elementary center was in possession of a plastic item that fits this definition. Initial disciplinary action was taken immediately, and the school district disciplinary procedures will be followed. It is important to note that there was no threat made to cause harm to anyone, nor was anyone ever in danger. The Burgettstown Area School District follows all District policies, the PA School Code, and local and state laws regarding incidents of this nature.

The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and the Burgettstown Area School District is our number one priority. Should you have any questions regarding the new requirements under Act 44, please contact the District Office at your convenience.