

**Weapons and Dangerous Instruments**

The Board of Education determines that possession, concealment, and/or use of a weapon by a student is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the district. Possession and/or use of any dangerous or deadly weapon, firearm, or destructive device in any school building on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited.

A "dangerous weapon" is any weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, which, under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious injury. A "deadly weapon" is any instrument, article, or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious injury.

Pursuant to federal law, the term firearm includes, but is not limited to, any weapon designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or a destructive device. A student who violates this policy will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

A "destructive device" is considered any device with an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas component or any combination of parts, either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A destructive device does not include any device that is designed primarily for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety, or similar device.

The possession or use of any such weapon or device will require that the proceedings for the suspension and/or expulsion of the student involved will be initiated immediately by the principal. If the student is found to have possessed a firearm or other dangerous weapon as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 53a-3 in violation of 29-35 or 53-206, in or on the real property of a school or at any school activity as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 10-233a, he/she must be expelled for one calendar year. The Board of Education may modify the period of expulsion on a case-by-case basis. To comply with federal law, any finding of an exception shall be reduced to writing. All legal restrictions and requirements will be adhered to with all students, including special education students.

The Board shall consider a student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process or is violative of publicized policies of the Board as grounds for expulsion.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted. The Superintendent may authorize other persons to possess weapons for courses, programs, and activities approved by the District and conducted on District property.

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in a school zone is prohibited. A "school zone," as defined by federal law, means on or in school grounds, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds.

"Gun-Free School Zone" signs will/may be posted in cooperation with city/town officials as appropriate. Violations, unless otherwise exempted by law or this policy, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-233a through 10-233f - Expulsion as amended by PA 95-304

53a-3 Definitions.

53a-217b - Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds

53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, 18 U.S.C. §§ 921(a)(25)-(26), 922(q) (2006)

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

20 U.S.C. §7961, The Gun-Free School Act, 8561 of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Youth Handgun Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(x), 924(a)(6) (2006)

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7117

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