



BOARD POLICY

218.1-DUP1 Weapons

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218.1-DUP1

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Purpose

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

Definitions

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 ~~for~~ any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

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 [or assigned storage area](#); [or](#) 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, ~~;~~ ~~onto any property being used by the school~~; to any school-sponsored [activity](#) function, ~~event or activity held at or away from~~

~~school; or~~ and onto any public ~~vehicle conveyance~~ providing transportation to ~~or from~~ school or a school-sponsored ~~function, event or~~ activity; or while the student is ~~coming on his/her way~~ 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. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. [2] [4] [5]

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies. [2] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulation and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, and the district's emergency preparedness plan. [10] [11] [12] [15]

When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. [13] [14]

Reporting

Law Enforcement Incident Report -

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies. [2] [11] [13] [17] [18] [19]

Parental Report - Direct Involvement -

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. [\[11\]](#) [\[12\]](#) [\[18\]](#) [\[20\]](#)

Additional Parental and Employee Notifications -

The Superintendent or designee shall, in accordance with applicable law, ensure notification of an incident involving possession of a weapon on school property, at a school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity, to employees and parents/guardians of students, as follows: [\[12\]](#) [\[21\]](#)

1. Incident occurring at a school building - Notification to parents/guardians of students enrolled in or attending that school building and school employees assigned to that building.
2. Incident occurring at a school building that shares a campus with other school buildings - Notification to parents/guardians of students enrolled or attending and school employees assigned to any building on the shared campus.
3. Incident occurring at a school-sponsored activity or on a public conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity - Notification to the appropriate population of parents/guardians and school employees. Notification is not required if the incident is not directly related to the school-sponsored activity or the students or staff involved in the activity.

Such notification(s) must occur within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident using a method of communication likely to reach designated parents/guardians and employees, unless the circumstances of the incident necessitate otherwise. [\[12\]](#)

The Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving ~~acts of violence~~ or possession of a weapon to the PA Department of Education ~~Office of Safe Schools~~ on the required form ~~in accordance with state law and regulation.~~ [\[10\]](#) [\[11\]](#) [\[15\]](#)

~~The Superintendent or a designee shall enforce the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when a student is in possession of a weapon; when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; under the student's control while s/he is 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 on his/her way to or from school.~~ [\[2\]](#)

~~Acts of violence or when a student is in possession of a weapon on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.~~

Guidelines

~~The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.~~^[2] ^[10] ^[11] ^[15] ^[16] ^[17]

~~The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.~~^[10] ^[16] ^[18]

~~In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving possession of a weapon to the PA Department of Education on the required form.~~^[10] ^[11] ^[15]

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

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, in accordance with law, 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.^[19] ^[20]

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 may not exceed the expulsion period.^[2] ^[21]

Legal Footnotes

[1] 24 P.S. 1301-A
LEGAL REFERENCE

[2] 24 P.S. 1317.2
LEGAL REFERENCE

[3] Pol. 218 — Student Discipline

POLICY REFERENCE

[4] Pol. 113.1 — Discipline of Students With Disabilities

POLICY REFERENCE

[5] Pol. 233 — Suspension and Expulsion

POLICY REFERENCE

[6] 22 PA Code 10.23

LEGAL REFERENCE

[7] 20 U.S.C. 1400

LEGAL REFERENCE

[8] Pol. 103.1 — Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities

POLICY REFERENCE

[9] Pol. 113.2 — Behavior Support

POLICY REFERENCE

[10] Pol. 805.1 — Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies

POLICY REFERENCE

[11] 24 P.S. 1319-B

LEGAL REFERENCE

[12] Pol. 805 — Emergency Preparedness

POLICY REFERENCE

[13] 24 P.S. 1302-E

LEGAL REFERENCE

[14] Pol. 236.1 — Threat Assessment

POLICY REFERENCE

[15] 24 P.S. 1306.2-B

LEGAL REFERENCE

[16] 22 PA Code 10.2

LEGAL REFERENCE

[17] 22 PA Code 10.21

LEGAL REFERENCE

[18] 22 PA Code 10.25

LEGAL REFERENCE

[19] 18 U.S.C. 921

LEGAL REFERENCE

[20] 18 U.S.C. 922

LEGAL REFERENCE

[21] Pol. 200 — Enrollment in District

POLICY REFERENCE

Legal References

No additional references listed.