

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OR DANGEROUS OBJECTS BY STUDENTS AND OTHERS

Weapons or other dangerous objects and look-a-likes cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of persons on District premises or property within the jurisdiction of the District or at school events and are thereby prohibited. Such items shall be taken from those who are in possession of or in control of them on District property or premises within the jurisdiction of the District or from students within the control of the District. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student found in possession of or control of a weapon, dangerous object or a look-a-like, while on school property or premises shall be notified of the incident.

A weapon means a firearm. Firearm is defined as but not limited to: (a) any weapon (including a starter gun and rifle) designed to or may readily convert to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or silencer; or (d) any destructive device (e.g., explosive, incendiary, or poison gas or otherwise defined by law). Firearms includes guns (e.g., rifles, shotguns) intended to be used for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes. A student who knowingly possesses a firearm on school property or at a school event, shall be expelled for not less than twelve (12) months. However, the Superintendent has the authority to recommend and the Board has the authority to modify the twelve (12) month expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Dangerous object is defined as an item capable of producing harm (inflicting death or injury) to oneself or others (e.g., knife, club, chains, razor-blade, dagger, stiletto, switchblade, mace, pepper spray, brass knuckles).

Confiscation of weapon(s), or dangerous object(s) shall be reported to law enforcement officials. A student found to possess or control a weapon or dangerous object will be referred to law enforcement officials and the student shall be subject to disciplinary action that could be suspension or expulsion.

The following situations are exempt from this policy:

1. Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials while on school property.
2. Persons with express permission of the building principal who display unloaded weapons, other dangerous objects, or look-alikes for educational purposes.
3. Persons who carry unloaded rifles, dangerous objects or look-alikes with the express permission of school authorities while participating as a color guard at an event held on school property.
4. Persons with express permission of school authorities who carry rifles modified to fire only blank rounds while participating in a gun salute ceremony at an event held on school property such as flag retirement ceremonies, Veteran's Day or Memorial Day observance.
5. Air rifles issued by U.S. Army Cadet Command for use in approved Marksmanship Program are permitted in the JROTC storage area and Air Rifle Range.
6. The use of look-alike weapons/rifles during Drill Team practice (only if approval on file).
7. Authorized weapons possessed by club participants, used in school club shooting events, such as trap shooting.

Legal Ref.: No Child Left Behind, Title IV, Sec. 4141, P.L. 107-110 (2002).
Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382.
18 U.S.C. § 921 (2010).
McClain v. Lafayette County Bd. of Education, 673 F.2d 106 (5th Cir. 1982).
Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21B; 724.
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

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