



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1
Status	Active
Adopted	April 18, 1994
Last Revised	August 20, 2012

Purpose

The district recognizes that the possession of weapons on school property is a criminal offense in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The district also recognizes that the use of weapons has become a serious problem in schools and in society. Weapons in the schools present serious legal, safety and welfare problems in the school community. As an educational institution, the district will strive to prevent the presence of weapons in the schools. However, when weapons are found in the schools, the district will intervene to remove the weapons and report findings to local law officials.

Definitions

Weapon – the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, brass or metal knuckles, firearm, shotgun, rifle, bb or pellet gun, look-alike gun, chemical agent, mace, explosive device, tazer, firecracker, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.[1]

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; 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.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district building, onto school property, to any school sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to/from school or to/from a school sponsored activity.[1]

The school district 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.[1][2]

In the case of an exceptional student, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the student's parents and to local law enforcement officials.[3]

The Superintendent shall report all incidents relating to expulsions for possession of a weapon on school grounds to the Department of Education.[1]

The Superintendent or designee shall take the necessary actions to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.[4]

Acts of violence or possession of a weapon on school property in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

School personnel will be instructed regarding the Pennsylvania law regarding weapons on school property. Also, personnel will be instructed regarding the handling of weapons situations.

Guidelines

Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.[1]

Any person who has a permit to carry a concealed weapon will not be permitted to carry a concealed weapon on Big Spring School District property, excluding law enforcement personnel.

Staff and Student Expectations

Staff members and students observing or otherwise becoming aware of weapon on school property, at school activities or on school transportation shall report the same to the administration immediately. Administrators shall report individuals suspected of possessing weapons on school property, at school activities, or on school transportation to the appropriate law enforcement officials immediately, such duty to report being subject to review by the district's solicitor. Staff members shall cooperate with law enforcement officials in the detection and prosecution of all violators of this policy.

Transfer Students

When the school district receives a student transfers from a public or private school during 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.

Legal

- [1. 24 P.S. 1317.2](#)
- 2. Pol. 233
- [3. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)
- [4. 24 P.S. 1303-A](#)
- [18 U.S.C. 921](#)
- [18 U.S.C. 922](#)
- [20 U.S.C. 7114](#)
- [20 U.S.C. 7151](#)
- [22 PA Code 403.1](#)