

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Schools should be an example of what is taught regarding the observance of and respect for law. Schools also must be highly conscious of the health and welfare of students, staff, and the public.

- I. **PROHIBITION:** In this regard, students shall not possess weapons, facsimiles of weapons, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, nor at any school-related or school-sponsored activity away from school facilities. Prohibited articles include:
 - A. A firearm, which according to state statute means any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged
 - B. Martial arts weapons
 - C. A deadly weapon, which according to state statute means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged or, a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles.
 - D. A dangerous instrument, which according to state statute means any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a vehicle.

II. CONSEQUENCES

- A. **Legal:** Possession of or bringing a firearm or deadly weapon on school grounds or other areas under the control of the Board of Education may also be a violation of criminal law, and therefore any violation of this policy shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency.
- B. **On School Grounds or at School Activities:** If a student is found to be in possession of a firearm (regardless of a proper permit authorizing such possession), martial arts weapon, deadly weapon, or dangerous instrument in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, or at any school-related or school-sponsored activity away from school facilities, he/she will be suspended immediately and the parent or guardian of the student notified. The student will then be expelled by the Board of Education and may be subject to court action.

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II. CONSEQUENCES (continued)

C. Off School Grounds: The Board of Education will expel a student if that student is found to have been in possession of a firearm off school grounds for which the student does not have a permit to carry said firearm or is found to have possessed and used a firearm, martial arts weapon, deadly weapon, or dangerous instrument in the commission of a crime.

D. Seizure of Weapons: Any firearm, martial arts weapon, deadly weapon, or dangerous instrument brought onto school property or school transportation or to a school-sponsored activity will be seized by the school system under the power granted to the Board of Education to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety of students, staff, and the public.

III. OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYEES: Every employee seizing any weapon or dangerous instrument under the provisions of this policy must report the incident to the building principal immediately and deliver the seized device to the principal, together with the names of persons involved, witnesses, location, and circumstances of the seizure.

If an employee knows or has reason to suspect that a student has possession of such a device but the device has not been seized, the employee shall report the matter to the principal immediately, and the principal shall take such action as is appropriate. The principal shall report all violations of this policy to the Superintendent or designee, and to the local law enforcement agency on approval of the Superintendent or designee.

IV. NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS: Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of this policy annually.

(cf. JGD - Suspension and Expulsion)
(cf. JFG - Interrogations and Searches)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221. Board of education to prescribe rules
53a-3. Definitions
53a-217b. Possession of a weapon on school grounds

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