

Category: 8000 STUDENTS	Policy Number: 8790
Policy Title: Prohibition of Weapons	Effective Date: February 20, 2019

This district is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff when they are at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity. The district’s commitment includes the prohibition against any weapons or other objects/substances which may pose a threat to the health and safety of other students, staff members, or visitors, or could be used to disrupt the educational process. It also includes the prohibition against willful threats of violence directed at schools, school buses, school activity venues, school staff and/or students regardless of the point of origin, and delivered by any means of communication.

PROHIBITIONS

Students attending district schools are prohibited from:

1. Possessing or carrying objects/substances which are manufactured, used, or intended for use as a weapon, or facsimiles thereof, at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity without prior permission of school officials.
2. Possessing, carrying, using, and/or threatening to use, any normally non-dangerous object or substance with the intent or result of causing harm to another individual at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.
3. Knowingly assisting another student(s) to possess, carry, or use a weapon at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.
4. Threatening by word, electronic means or act to use a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon to do violence to any person on school grounds or to disrupt the normal operations of the school district’s operations by making a threat of violence.
5. Knowingly possessing, altering or repairing a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon in the furtherance of carrying out a threat made by word, electronic means or act to do violence to any person on school grounds or to disrupt the normal operations of the school district.

DEFINITIONS

“Possess” is defined as bringing an object, or causing it to be brought, onto the property of a school, or onto a vehicle being used for school-provided transportation, or exercising dominion and control over an object located anywhere on such property or vehicle. A student will be determined to possess a weapon when the item is found to be in any of the following locations:

1. On a student’s person;
2. In the student’s personal property, including, but not limited to, the student’s clothing, backpack, purse, or any other item the student transports or carries and/or causes to be transported or carried to school;
3. A vehicle parked in the school parking lot which the student drives and/or is transported in;
4. The student’s locker; or
5. Any other school-related or school-sponsored event, regardless of location.

“Deadly or dangerous weapon” means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930. “Weapon” additionally includes a knife with a blade of any length.

“Firearm” shall mean any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffle or firearm silencer; any

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destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, or rocket, missile, mine, or similar device, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921, and air rifles or other weapons that propel a projectile with air, or pellet guns, or paint ball guns. Antique firearms are specifically excluded.

“On school grounds” means in or on property owned or operated by a school district, public charter school or private school.

INVESTIGATION

The superintendent or designee will immediately investigate any allegation that a student is in violation of this policy. If determined necessary by the superintendent or designee, law enforcement may be requested to conduct the investigation. Any item identified as a weapon may be confiscated by the superintendent or designee. Students reasonably believed to be in possession of these items may be suspended from school until a thorough investigation is completed.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, expulsion, suspension, or other appropriate penalties. The board may, at its discretion, expel a student for the possession and/or use of a weapon, regardless of whether the item at issue falls within the definition of “weapon” under the Gun-Free Schools Act. Disciplinary action will be taken after reviewing all factors, including, but not limited to, the mandates of federal and state law; the student’s actions; the risk of harm to the students, district personnel, and patrons; the student’s academic standing; the likelihood of recurring violation; and the student’s prior conduct.

Expulsion Mandated by Federal Law

The board of trustees shall expel a student when the student’s actions violate federal law, as set forth in the Gun-Free Schools Act and Idaho law, regarding the prohibition of weapons:

Gun-Free Schools Act. A student is found by district personnel or by law enforcement personnel to have carried a dangerous weapon as defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 921 on school property. The definition of weapon, for purposes of expulsion under this provision, includes a firearm or destructive device which is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant. Destructive devices such as any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas, bomb, or grenade are also defined as firearms. Specifically excluded from the definition of “weapons” pursuant to the Gun-Free Schools Act, and therefore not subject to mandatory expulsion, are the following:

1. Antique firearms and rifles which the owner intends to use solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes;
2. Firearms that are lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle on school property; and
3. Weapons which are used in activities, approved and authorized by the superintendent or designee, when appropriate safeguards are adopted to ensure student safety.

The expulsion, pursuant to the Gun-Free Schools Act, will be for a period of not less than one (1) year (twelve (12) calendar months). The board may modify the expulsion order on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual circumstances and the severity of the incident.

Referral to Law Enforcement

The district will refer any student who brings onto school property a weapon or firearm, as defined under the Gun-Free Schools Act or Idaho law, to law enforcement.

The board may, at its discretion, refer other students who violate this policy to law enforcement.

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Disciplining students with disabilities, as defined by Public Law 94-142 and subsequent amendments, and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, under this policy will follow federal guidelines.

DENIAL OF ENROLLMENT

This district will not admit a student who has been expelled from another school district for violation of a statute, regulation, or policy which prohibits weapons until the student is eligible to return to his or her home school district. If a student wishes to challenge that decision, he or she is entitled to a due process hearing pursuant to Idaho Code §33-205.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections
33-205
18-3302D
18-3302I
18 USC 921
18 USC 930
Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 4141 (2001)

ADOPTED: 12/15/2010

AMENDED: 02/20/2019

Note: The district has the right to determine what items constitute a weapon. The definitions of “deadly or dangerous weapon” and “firearm” are the definitions referenced in Idaho Code § 18-3302D, which is the state statute governing carrying weapons or firearms on school property. Districts may add other items to its definition of “weapon” to address local concerns.

Expulsion is currently only mandated (to be modified on a case-by-case basis) in those instances where a weapon, as defined by the Gun-Free Schools Act, is involved. If the board modifies the expulsion in a specific instance, it has the right to impose alternative disciplinary measures.