



Section: *Pupils*
Title: *Possession of Weapons*
Adopted: *March 16, 2000*
Revised:

234 Possession of Weapons Prohibited

1. Purpose:

Students are strictly prohibited from possessing a weapon or replica of a weapon on any school property, any school sponsored activity or any public conveyance providing transportation to a school or school sponsored activity, and/or within a school zone.

2. Definitions:

The term “school property” means all (1) buildings, facilities, and grounds on the school campus, (2) school buses and other conveyances providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored functions or activities, (3) school parking areas; and (4) any building, facility or grounds being used for school-sponsored functions or activities.

The term “weapons” shall include, but not be limited to firearms; shotguns; rifles; knives; metal knuckles; razors of any type; razorblades; cutting instruments or tools of any nature including those individually fabricated; explosives; mace; noxious irritating or poisonous gasses; poisons; destructive devices; drugs; any other tools or instruments, fashioned with the intent to use or sell which could be used to harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents, guardians, or others legally upon School District premises. The possession of cutting instruments, drugs, tools or instruments shall be considered possession of weapons only in cases where harm, threats, harassment or intent to harm are demonstrated or may be reasonably inferred.

The term “firearm” means any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such instrument, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device.

Section: Pupils

Page: 234.2

The term “destructive” device means any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas, including but not limited to, any bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, or device similar to any of the aforesaid instruments.

3. Authority:

Violations of this policy will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for investigation of violations of and possible prosecution under the Federal and/or the Pennsylvania Crimes Codes. Notwithstanding referrals of violations to law enforcement agencies, the school officials are authorized to conduct investigations relating to disciplinary action for violations of this policy and further authorized to take any immediate actions required to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the school community.

4. Delegation of Authority:

Any violation of this policy shall result in a disciplinary action. The Superintendent of Schools may recommend discipline short of expulsion or expulsion from the schools of the Colonial School District in a temporary through permanent period, on a case-by-case basis. In the case of an exceptional student, the Superintendent of Schools must take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Act. Furthermore, all students must be provided their due process rights under the Pennsylvania Public School Code, as amended, and the implementing regulations of the State Board of Education shall be fulfilled.

A student transferring into the Colonial School District who, at the time of such transfer, is serving a period of expulsion for an offense involving a weapon, upon acceptance into the Colonial School District, will be placed in an alternative educational assignment as determined by the Superintendent of Schools for the remainder of the expulsion period as determined by the previous school.

The Superintendent of Schools or his or her designee shall report to the Department of Education all incidents, relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon on school grounds, school-sponsored activities, or public conveyances providing transportation to a school or a school-sponsored activity. The report shall include all information as required under Section 1302-A of the Public School code and will be reported annually in the Annual Report on School Violence and Weapon Possession on Pennsylvania Department of Education Form PDE 360.

Section: Pupils

Page: 234.3

The Superintendent of Schools is directed to adopt regulations setting forth the criteria to be used by the Superintendent of Schools in deciding whether or not to recommend discipline short of expulsion.

Section: Pupils

Title: Possession of Weapons

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*Legal References: 24 P.S. §510; 24 P.S. §13-1301-A; 24 P.S. §13-1317.2;
18 USC §921(a)(3)(4)(25); 20 USC §§ 8921, 8922(b)*

Cross Reference: