

STUDENTS

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - WEAPONS

Definition

For purposes of this policy, the term "weapon" shall mean any object which may be used to cause bodily harm, including but not limited to a "weapon" as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (including, but not be limited to, any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or silencer; or any destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas), a "firearm" as defined in Section 1.1 of the Illinois Firearm Owners Identification Act, use of a "weapon" as defined in Section 24-1 of the Illinois Criminal Code, knives, guns, firearms, rifles, shotguns, brass knuckles, billy clubs, or "look alikes" thereof. Items such as baseball bats, pipes, bottles, locks, sticks, pencils and pens may also be considered "weapons" for purposes of this policy if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.

General Policy

The Board of Education believes that weapons and other dangerous objects in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment and present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on school district property. Accordingly, the possession, use, control or transfer of knives, guns, explosives, firearms or other weapons or dangerous instruments shall be prohibited on school buses, in school buildings, and on school grounds, and at any school-sponsored activity or event, and at any activity or event which bears a reasonable relationship to school.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials or other authorized personnel shall be exempt from this policy.

Mandatory Expulsion Policy

In accordance with federal and state law, any student who is determined to have brought a weapon to any school in the District, or to any school-sponsored activity or event, or to any activity or event which bears a reasonable relationship to school, shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year, provided however, that the Board may modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis. Any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school shall also be referred to applicable representatives of the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency systems.

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The District may provide educational services in an alternative setting to any student who has been expelled pursuant to this policy, to the extent authorized by state law, when in the opinion of the Board of Education such action is warranted. This policy shall be construed in a manner which is consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Board of Education shall certify to the State of Illinois, as required by law, that it is in compliance with all state and federal requirements relating to the adoption of this policy, and shall report to the State of Illinois concerning the circumstances surrounding any expulsions imposed hereunder, including the name of the school concerned, the number of students expelled from such school, and the type of weapons concerned.

In taking any disciplinary action under this policy, including the expulsion of students, the District shall follow procedures required by state and federal law, and Board policy.

LEG. REF.: Illinois School Code, Sec. 10-22.6 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6);
Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-227);
Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382);
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
18 U.S.C. 921.

CROSS REF.: 705.23, 715.04, 715.05, and 715.07

Adopted: May 12, 1983
Revised: February 24, 1994
Revised: March 9, 1995
Revised: December 10, 1998