

## **Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises**

### **Purpose**

This policy seeks to protect students and staff by restricting persons from bringing dangerous weapons on campus, allowing for exceptions, and establishing consequences for violation of this policy.

### **Scope**

This policy guides the Board of Directors, Superintendent, administrators and staff, and informs students, volunteers, parents or guardians, and the public.

### **Policy**

1. It is a violation of district policy and state law (RCW 9.41.280) for any person to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation or areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities unless specifically authorized by state law. Carrying a dangerous weapon onto such premises in violation of RCW 9.41.280 is a criminal offense.
2. **DANGEROUS WEAPONS**
  - 2.1. The term “dangerous weapons” under state law include, but may not be limited to:
    - (a) Any firearm.
    - (b) Any device, commonly known as “nun-chu-ka sticks,” consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means.
    - (c) Any device, commonly known as “throwing stars,” which are multi-pointed, metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect.
    - (d) Any gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas.
    - (e) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun which project wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse.
    - (f) Any device, object or instrument which is used, or intended to be used, as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by electric shock, charge or impulse.
    - (g) Any of the following instruments:
      - Dirk or dagger.
      - Knife with a blade longer than three inches.
      - Knife with a blade which is automatically released by a spring mechanism or other mechanical device.

- Knife having a blade which opens, or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity, or by outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement.
- Razor with an unguarded blade.

(h) Any slung shot, sandbag, or sand club.

(i) Metal knuckles.

(j) A sling shot.

(k) Any metal pipe or bar used or intended to be used as a club.

(l) Any explosive.

(m) Any weapon containing poisonous or injurious gas.

(n) Any implement or instrument which has the capacity to inflict death and from the manner in which it is used, is likely to produce or may easily and readily produce death.

2.2. In addition, the district considers the following weapons in violation of this policy:

(a) Any knife or razor not listed above, except for instruments authorized or provided for specific school activities.

(b) Any object other than those listed above which is used in a manner to intimidate, threaten, or injure another person and is capable of easily and readily producing such injury.

3. Administrators are authorized to confiscate any dangerous weapons or look-alike weapons, and objects that could be used as weapons if, in their judgment, the object poses a danger to the health and safety of the student, other students and staff.

#### 4. **EXCEPTIONS**

4.1. The following persons may carry firearms into school buildings, as necessary, although students engaged in these activities are restricted to the possession of rifles on school premises:

(a) Persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or district security activities.

(b) Any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer.

(c) Persons involved in a school-authorized convention, showing, demonstration, lecture or firearm safety course.

(d) Persons competing in school-authorized firearm or air gun competitions.

4.2. The following persons over eighteen (18) years of age and not enrolled as students may have firearms in their possession on school property outside of school buildings:

(a) Persons with concealed weapons permits issued pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 who are picking up or dropping off students.

- (b) Persons conducting legitimate business at the school and in lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon if the weapon is secured within an attended vehicle, is unloaded and secured in a vehicle, or is concealed from view in a locked, unattended vehicle.
- 4.3. Persons may bring certain dangerous weapons, other than firearms, onto school premises if the weapons are lawfully within the person's possession and are to be used in a school-authorized martial arts class.
- 4.4. **PERSONAL PROTECTION SPRAY**
  - 4.4.1. Persons over eighteen (18) years of age, and persons between fourteen (14) and eighteen (18) years of age with written parental or guardian permission, may possess personal protection spray devices on school property. No one under eighteen (18) years of age may deliver such devices. No one eighteen (18) years or older may deliver a spray device to anyone under fourteen (14), or to anyone between fourteen (14) and eighteen (18) who does not have parental permission.
  - 4.4.2. Personal protection spray devices may not be used other than in self-defense as defined by state law. Possession, transmission or use of personal protection spray devices under any other circumstances is a violation of district policy.

## 5. VIOLATIONS AND REMEDIES

- 5.1. School officials will promptly notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and the student's parent or guardian of any known or suspected violations of this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to discipline.
- 5.2. Any student who has possessed a firearm on any school premises, school-provided transportation, or school-sponsored activities at any facility will immediately be expelled for not less than one year pursuant to RCW 28A.600.420. The Superintendent may modify the one-year expulsion for a firearm on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.3. The district may also suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice (as defined under RCW 9A.04.110) and displays a device that appears to be a firearm.
- 5.4. No expulsion under RCW 28A.600.420 prevents the district from continuing to provide educational services in an alternative educational setting in compliance with RCW 28A.600.015. Any alternative setting should be comparable, equitable, and appropriate to the regular education services a student would have received without the exclusionary discipline. Example alternative settings include one-on-one tutoring and online learning.
- 5.5. Disciplinary decisions pursuant to this policy may be appealed first to the Superintendent, then to the Board of Directors as described in Policy 3302-Expulsion or Long-Term Suspension and/or Policy 3303-Emergency Expulsion.

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6. The Superintendent is directed to ensure that all school facilities post "Gun-Free Zone" signs, and that all violations of this policy and RCW 9.41.280 are reported annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Related Procedures**

N/A

**Policy Cross References**

- 3240-Student Conduct
- 3301-Disciplinary Action
- 3302-Expulsion or Long-Term Suspension
- 3303-Emergency Expulsion
- 3304-Readmission Provisions – Expulsions and Suspensions

**Policy Legal References**

- RCW 9A.41.020 – Use of force—when lawful
- RCW 9.41.250 Dangerous Weapons—Penalty
- RCW 9.41.270 Weapons apparently capable of producing bodily harm—Unlawful carrying or handling—Penalty—Exceptions
- RCW 9.41.280 Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities—Penalty—Exceptions
- RCW 9.91.160 Personal protection spray devices
- RCW 9.94A.225 – Deadly weapon special verdict—definition
- RCW 28A.600.420 Firearms on school premises, transportation, or facilities—Penalty—Exemptions

**Management Resources**

- Policy & Legal News*, July 2016 – Other updates
- Policy News*, August 2006 – Weapons on School Premises
- Policy News*, August 1998 – State Encourages Modification of Weapons Policy
- Policy News*, October 1997 – Legislature also addresses “look-alike” firearms

**Policy History**

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Approved by the Board	Unknown
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Revised	January 28, 2015
Revised	November 15, 2017

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