

WEAPONS POLICY

Adopted:

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public.

II. Policy

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location.

Definition

“Weapon”

1. A “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns, pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; throwing star, explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
 2. No student shall possess; use or distribute any object; device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such object, device or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
 3. No student shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.) to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.
- “School Location” shall include a school building, school grounds, school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, and all school-related functions.
 - “Possession” means having a weapon on one’s person or in an area subject to one’s control in a school location. A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in the school building, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the principal’s office shall not be considered to possess a weapon.

IV. Consequences for Weapon Possession/Use/Distribution

- The school district takes a firm position in regard to the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, using or distributing weapons may include:
 1. Immediate out-of-school suspension;
 2. Confiscation of the weapon;
 3. Immediate notification of police;
 4. Parent or guardian notification; and
 5. Recommendation to the Director of dismissal for a period of time not to exceed one year.
- Pursuant to Minnesota law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school shall be expelled for at least one year. The school board may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

V. Policy Application to Instructional Equipment/Tools

While the school district takes a firm position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students,

such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use or distribution of weapons by

students. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

VI. Administrative Discretion

While the school takes a firm position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students, the

Director may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.