

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide a school environment that is conducive to learning. The underlying belief of this policy is that all children have the right to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. Therefore, the New Shoreham School Department maintains a policy of zero tolerance for weapons and violence in the school and all related facilities.

**Policy Enforcement:**

- A. Any student found to be in possession of a weapon, or involved in an aggravated assault, as defined herein, will immediately be suspended in accordance with applicable due process provisions. During this suspension, the school district will take the necessary steps in determining any additional action, which may include long-term action.
- B. Decisions regarding the specific length of a student's extended suspension (for up to one year) will be made by the School Committee and shall be determined on a case by case basis. Any student suspended from school may not participate in any school activities during the time of that suspension.
- C. In all cases involving weapons or aggravated assault in school or on school grounds, the New Shoreham Police shall be called, and all confiscated weapons will be turned over to the police department.
- D. A log of all confiscated weapons will be kept by the school and will be available to be reviewed by the local police department as needed.
- E. The Administration will make the determination as to whether or not a particular incident constitutes an aggravated assault.
- F. This policy will be implemented and enforced according to the due process provisions applicable to regular and special education students, and as stipulated (to all persons) under existing statutes and Federal law including the Gun Free School Act and RIGL Section § 16-21-1 et seq.

**Definitions:**

- A. Weapons – The term "weapons" shall include, by way of illustration, the following items: any loaded or unloaded firearm (e.g. pistol, blank pistol, signal pistol, starter pistol, revolver, pellet gun, bb gun, rifle, shotgun, etc.); any knife (e.g. Bowie, Dirck, lock-blade, hunting, sheath, pen, pocket, switchblade, utility, etc.); any razor (e.g. straight, regular, retractable, etc.); any defensive weapon (e.g. gas repellent, stun gun, mace, etc.); any martial arts device (e.g. Chinese starts, numchuks, etc.); any other tool or instrument which could reasonably be capable of being used to inflict bodily harm (e.g. pipe, lug wrench, blackjack, chain, club,

studded bracelet, etc.); or which by virtue of its shape or design gives the appearance of any of the aforementioned.

- B. Assault – Assault is defined as an act of physical violence or an aggravated threat of physical violence by a student or adult on another student or adult.
- C. Aggravated Assault – When considering what constitutes aggravated assault, the factors to be weighed include: age of student(s) involved, seriousness of bodily injury, the state of mind of the individual(s) involved, and any other factors deemed relevant to the Administration.

**Law Enforcement Policy Recommendations:**

Law enforcement officials will seek emergency detentions for:

1. Assault with a loaded gun;
2. Assault with an unloaded gun;
3. Possession of a loaded gun;
4. Possession of an unloaded gun;
5. Assault with a Class-A explosive;
6. Possession with a Class-A explosive;
7. Assault with "any other weapon(s)" causing serious bodily injury;
8. Assault with "any other weapon(s)" without serious bodily injury; and
9. Assault against another individual, juvenile or adult, causing bodily injury (no weapon necessary).

In instances where a student or adult is assaulted, no weapon is involved, and no serious bodily harm is done, law enforcement officials may choose not to seek emergency detentions, but rather to respond the next day.