

Barrington Public Schools Weapons and Assault Policy

I. Policy Statement

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, each school shall enforce the following policy of zero tolerance for weapons and violence.

II. Enforcement of Zero Tolerance for Weapons and Assault

Any student found to be in possession of a weapon, or involved in an assault, as defined herein, shall immediately be suspended in accordance with applicable due process provisions set forth in Policy [[SUSPENSION POLICY](#)]. During this suspension, the Barrington Public Schools (BPS) shall take the necessary steps in determining any additional action, which may include expulsion. Decisions regarding the length of a student's suspension shall be made by school administration or appropriate authority. Students suspended from class/school under this policy will not be permitted to participate in any school functions.

III. Definitions

1. **Assault:** An act of physical violence or an aggravated threat of physical violence to another student, staff member or any other person on school grounds.
2. **School Grounds:** This term includes, but is not limited to, BPS property, areas around the schools, parking lots, areas being used for school sponsored events, vehicles used for school transportation, and school bus stops.
3. **Weapon:** Shall include any device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.
4. **Suspension:** A suspension is removal of a student from a class and/or school by an administrator for a specified period of time, not more than ten (10) school days. In the event that a school team determines more than ten (10) accumulated days of suspension is appropriate, and alternate interventions have been exhausted, the School Committee may approve additional days of suspension.
5. **Expulsion:** An expulsion is a removal from a school for more than ten (10) school days up to a period of one hundred eighty (180) school days and must be approved by the School Committee.

IV. Police Involvement

In all cases involving weapons or assault in schools or on school grounds, local police shall be called, and all confiscated weapons are to be turned over to the Police Department. A log of all confiscated weapons shall be kept by school administrators and shall be available for review.

V. Statement of Enforcement

This policy shall be implemented in compliance with state and federal law applicable to general and special education students.

Principals or their designee shall make the determination as to whether or not a particular incident constitutes an assault, whether a device constitutes a weapon and/or what constitutes possession of a weapon. When considering what constitutes assault, the factors to be weighed may include, but are not limited to: age of student(s) involved, seriousness of bodily injury, the state of mind of the individual(s) involved, and any other factors deemed relevant by the school principals or designee.

Legal References (Click Each to Access)

[School Safety Checklist Pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §16-21-23.1](#)

[School Emergency Planning: Mitigation/Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Guide and Model Plan Pursuant to RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-23.1](#)

[Code of Student Conduct](#)

[RI Gen. Laws §16-2-17 Right to a safe school](#)

[RI Gen. Laws §16-21-23 , RI Gen. Laws §16-21-24, RI Gen. Laws §16-21-25 School Safety Plans](#)

[RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-23.1 Model school safety plans and checklists-Development and dissemination](#)

[RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-33 Safe Schools Act](#)

[RI Gen. Laws § 12-7-21 "Peace officer" defined.](#)

[Rhode Island Department of Health, Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs \(2014\)](#)

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