

466 WEAPONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to ban weapons from school grounds to provide a safe environment to all E.C.H.O. School employees, students, and volunteers.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

E.C.H.O. Charter School bans weapons from school grounds or at school sponsored events subject to specific exceptions.

III. POLICY

- A. No person shall possess, use or store a weapon or look-alike weapon in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school-sponsored activities, except as otherwise specifically provided. A dangerous weapon or look-alike weapons is defined by state statute to include, but not be limited to: guns, electric weapons, knives, metallic knuckles, martial arts equipment, or any other object which is capable of inflicting bodily harm, property damage or which endangers the health and safety of students and staff.
- B. Violation of this policy will be reported to law enforcement or juvenile delinquency authorities as appropriate. Dangerous weapons will be confiscated by school personnel and a dangerous weapon(s) taken from a student will be reported to the student's parent/guardian. Any student who violates this policy shall be subject to penalties outlined in the state law and referred for suspension and/or expulsion and referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

The following circumstances do not constitute a violation of the policy:

- A. Weapons under the control of law enforcement officers discharging their official duties, military personnel who are armed in the line of duty or students or non-students participating in military training.
- B. Theatrical props using in appropriate settings, starter pistols using in appropriate sporting events or archery equipment properly used in physical education classes.
- C. Keeping or storing a pistol in a motor vehicle in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 624.714 or 624.715 or other firearms in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 976.045.

- D. A gun or know show held on school grounds.
- E. Written permission for the Director or designee to possess a weapon as defined above.
- F. Possession on unimproved property owned or used by the E.C.H.O. Charter School unless the person in possession knows or has reason to know that a student is currently on the land for a school related activity.

Note: Under Minn. Stat. § 609.66, Subd. 1d, *a school district may not prohibit the lawful carrying or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility. For purposes of this policy, the “lawful” carrying or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to nonstudent permit-holders authorized under Minn. Stat. § 624.714 to carry a pistol in the interior of a vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear of the vehicle. Any carrying or possession of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder’s vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.*

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.05 (Policy to Refer to Firearms Possessor)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.44 (Expulsion for Possession of Firearm)
18 U.S.C. § 921 (a) (3) & (a) (4) (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 624.714-715 (Carrying of Weapons without Permit; Exceptions)
Minn. Stat. § 97B.045 (Transportation of Firearms)
Minn. Stat. § 609.66, Subd. 1d (Possession on School Property)
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