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Firearms and Weapons

Firearms. No person may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. **Definition of Firearm.** The term “firearm” is defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Weapons. No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. No visitor under the age of 18 may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. **Definition of Weapon.** The term “weapon” means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

Exceptions Regarding Firearms. This prohibition does not apply to:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this State, or Reserve Officers Training Corps or peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training; or
2. Firearms that may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor;
3. Firearms which may be lawfully possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard;
4. Firearms contained within a private vehicle **operated by a nonstudent adult** that are not loaded **and** are encased or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle; or
5. A handgun carried as a concealed handgun by nonstudent adult who holds a valid permit issued under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act in a vehicle or on his or her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public and used by the school if,

44 prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box,
45 trunk, or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely
46 attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, a hardened
47 compartment securely attached to the motorcycle while the vehicle is in or
48 on such parking area, except as prohibited by federal law.

49
50 **Definition of Encased.** The term “encased” means enclosed in a case
51 that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is
52 completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no
53 part of the firearm exposed.

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55 **Exceptions for Students.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess
56 a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

- 57
58 1. The firearm or weapon has been brought to school grounds or to an
59 activity or event off school grounds for some educational purpose;
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61 2. The person bringing the firearm or weapon has requested and received the
62 prior approval of both the instructor and the building principal to do so;
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64 3. All arrangements to use and store the firearm or weapon safely while it is
65 on school premises have been agreed to and carried out.

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67 **Consequences- Firearm.** Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is
68 defined in United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one
69 calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall
70 have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

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72 **Consequences – Weapon.** State law and this policy provide that any student
73 who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or
74 transmitting a firearm or weapon on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle,
75 or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-
76 term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school
77 year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first
78 semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first
79 semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the
80 second semester).

81
82 **Confiscation of Firearms.** Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily
83 authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of
84 this policy. By statute, any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall
85 be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject
86 to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

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Report to Law Enforcement Authorities. All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm or weapon to school.

Adopted on: May 8, 2007

Revised on: August 12, 2014

Reviewed on: December 14, 2010; November 12, 2013; August 12, 2014; February 13, 2018