

## **Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises**

### **Policy 4210**

Unless authorized by this policy, it is a violation of district policy for any person to knowingly carry a firearm or dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation, areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities, or areas of facilities being used for official meetings of the school board. The term “school premises” includes property, or portion(s) of property, owned, rented or leased by the District when the property, or portion(s) of property is being used exclusively for school district activities.

The District superintendent is directed to see that all school facilities post "Gun-Free Zone" signs, and that all violations of this policy and RCW 9.41.280 are reported annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The District superintendent will post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possessing dangerous weapons at each facility being used for official meetings of the board.

#### **Dangerous Weapons**

The term “dangerous weapons” under state law includes:

- Any firearm;
- Any device commonly known as “nun-chu-ka sticks,” consisting of two or more length of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means;
- Any device, commonly known as “throwing stars,” which are multi-pointed, metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect;
- Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas;
- Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun which projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse;
- Any device, object, or instrument which is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse;
- The following instruments:
  - Any dirk or dagger;
    - Any knife with a blade longer than three inches;
    - Any knife with a blade which is automatically released by a spring mechanism or other mechanical device;
    - Any knife having a blade which opens, or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity, or by outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement; and

- Any razor with an unguarded blade;
- Any slung shot, sandbag, or sandclub;
- Metal knuckles;
- A sling shot;
- Any metal pipe or bar used or intended to be used as a club;
- Any explosive;
- Any weapon containing poisonous or injurious gas;
- Any implement or instrument which has the capacity to inflict death and from the manner in which it is used, is likely to produce or may easily and readily produce death.

In addition, the District considers the following weapons in violation of this policy:

- Any knife or razor not listed above, except for instruments authorized or provided for specific school activities;
- Any object other than those listed above which is used in a manner to intimidate, threaten, or injure another person and is capable of easily and readily producing such injury.

### **Reporting Dangerous Weapons**

#### Students

If District staff believe that a student has violated this policy, an appropriate school authority will promptly notify the student's parents or guardians and the appropriate law enforcement agency of known or suspected violations of this policy.

Students who have possessed a firearm on any school premises, school-provided transportation, or school-sponsored activities at any facility, or in areas of facilities while being used for official school board meetings shall be expelled for not less than one year pursuant to RCW 28A.600.420. The superintendent may modify the one-year expulsion for a firearm on a case-by-case basis.

Further, the district may also suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice (as defined under RCW 9A.04.110) and displays a device that appears to be a firearm.

All expulsion and/or suspension and all other discipline of students who violate this policy will be subject to District Policy 3241 – Student Discipline.

#### Staff

If a District employee believes that another District employee has violated this policy, the employee will report his or her concerns to an appropriate school or District authority for further inquiry. Any disciplinary action of an employee who willfully violates this policy will be subject to District Policy 5281 – Disciplinary Action and Discharge.

### **Exceptions**

The following persons may carry firearms into school buildings, as necessary, although students engaged in these activities are restricted to the possession of rifles on school premises:

- Persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or school district security activities;
- Persons involved in an authorized convention, showing, demonstration, lecture or firearm safety course authorized by the Superintendent;
- Persons competing in firearm or air gun competition authorized by the Superintendent; and
- Any federal, state or local law enforcement officer.

The following persons who are over eighteen years of age, not employed by the District, and not enrolled as students may have firearms in their possession on school property outside of school buildings only under the following limited circumstances:

- Persons who have a concealed weapons permits issued pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 and are (1) picking up or dropping off students at school or (2) attending official meetings of the school board held off District owned or leased property; and
- Persons conducting legitimate business at the school and in lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon if the weapon is secured within an attended vehicle, is unloaded and secured in a vehicle, or is concealed from view in a locked, unattended vehicle. Under RCW 9.41.050, no one may lawfully possess a loaded handgun in a vehicle unless the person has a valid concealed pistol permit.

Persons may bring dangerous weapons, other than firearms, onto school premises if the weapons are lawfully within the person's possession and are to be used in a school-authorized martial arts class.

### **Personal Protection Spray**

Persons over eighteen years of age, and persons between fourteen and eighteen years of age with written parental or guardian permission, may possess personal protection spray devices on school property. No one under eighteen years of age may deliver such devices. No one eighteen years or older may deliver a spray device to anyone under fourteen, or to anyone between fourteen and eighteen who does not have parental permission.

Personal protection spray devices may not be used other than in self-defense as defined by state law. Possession, transmission or use of personal protection spray devices under any other circumstances is a violation of district policy.

Cross References:	Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action
	Policy 4260	Use of School Facilities
	Policy 5281	Disciplinary Action and Discharge
	Policy 6112	Rental or Lease of District Real Property
Legal References:	RCW 9A.16.020	Use of force – when lawful
	RCW 9.41.250	Dangerous weapons – Penalty

	RCW 9.41.280	Dangerous weapons on facilities – Penalty – Exceptions
	RCW 9.91.160	Personal protections spray devices
	RCW 9.94A.825	Deadly weapon special verdict – definition
	RCW 28A.600.420	Firearms on school premises, transportation, or facilities – Penalty – Exemptions
Management Resources:	<i>Policy &amp; Legal News</i>	
	2023 – April	
	2022 – June	
	2016 – July	
	2006 – August	
	1998 – August	
	1997 – October	

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