

Section: **PERSONNEL**

Policy Title: **Firearms and Weapons Prohibited**

It is a violation of Kelso School District policy and state law for employees and other persons to possess firearms and weapons on school premises, school-provided transportation or areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities as set forth in RCW 9.41.280 and Kelso School District Policy 4210. In addition, it is a violation of this policy for district employees or volunteers (1) to possess firearms or weapons at any time while they are performing their duties for the District, unless specifically approved as provided herein, (2) to possess such items in their automobiles while parked on or about school property while the employee or volunteer performs their duties notwithstanding certain exceptions contained in RCW 9.41.280 and District Policy 4210, or (3) to possess such items in non-District provided vehicles when the vehicle is being used for a school activity.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Superintendent/ designee for any employee who must possess prohibited items for the purpose of performing security work for the District, or by a building principal for an employee to conduct or participate in a school-authorized firearms safety course, a school-authorized firearm competition or school-authorized martial arts classes. Such exceptions may also be granted for display of weapons of historical or other educational reasons. All exceptions shall be granted only in writing to a named employee or volunteer and shall not extend beyond the time and place needed to conduct the activity in question.

Personal protection spray devices may be possessed by employees and used for the sole purpose of self defense. Failure of an employee to use reasonable care to secure a personal protection spray device from being found or stolen by others is a violation of this policy.

For purpose of this policy:

A "firearm" means a weapon or device from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder or other devices or objects that reasonably appear to be a firearm.

A "weapon" means any instrument or weapon of the kind usually known as sling shot, sand club, or metal knuckles, spring blade knife, or any knife the blade of which is automatically released by a spring mechanism or other mechanical device, or any knife having a blade which opens, or falls, or is ejected into position by the force of gravity, or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement; any swords, bayonets, or similar devices, and any other knives not supplied by the district for work purposes or commonly possessed by individuals for utility purposes, such as pocket knives or tools; devices known as "nun-chu-ka sticks," consisting of two or more lengths 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; or 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, or any gun designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other

projectile by a spring mechanism; any device designed to immobilize another person through the use of an electrical charge; and any other devices, objects, or instruments primarily designed to inflict harm.

A “personal protection spray device” means a commercially-available dispensing device designed and intended for use in self defense and containing a nonlethal sternutator or lacrimator agent, including, but not limited to: tear gas, the active ingredient of which is either chloracetophenone (CN) or O-chlorobenzylidene malonotrile (CS); or other agent commonly known as mace, pepper mace, or pepper gas.

Any employee or volunteer violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or volunteer assignments.

Cross Reference:

Policy 3200, Student Right and Responsibilities

Policy 4210, Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises

Adopted: January 27, 1993
Revised: July 17, 2000
Revised: December 11, 2006