

WILKINSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: May 25, 2004

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">218.1. WEAPONS</p> <p>The district recognizes that the possession of weapons on school property is a criminal offense. The district also recognizes that the use of weapons has become a serious problem in schools and in society. Weapons in the schools present serious legal, safety, and welfare problems to the school community. As an educational institution, the district will strive to prevent the presence of weapons in the schools. However, when weapons are found in the schools, the district will intervene to remove the weapons and prosecute those individuals responsible for handling the weapon.</p> <p>Possession of a weapon on school grounds, in school buildings, or on school transportation is prohibited by law. Possession of a weapon at school-sponsored activities also presents serious legal, safety, and welfare problems to the school community.</p> <p>Therefore, the district emphasizes that possessing a weapon or knowing of and not reporting, before or during the course of a district investigation, the possession of a weapon in school buildings and grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary educational institution of the district, is a serious violation of the rules and regulations of the district.</p> <p>Additionally, because of the potentially harmful effect on the school community and the strong public policy of preventing persons from possessing objects which have the appearance or characteristics of weapons in school buildings and grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary educational institution, for purposes of this policy, objects which have the appearance or characteristics of weapons shall be considered weapons; possession or knowledge of such objects without proper reporting of possession of such objects shall also be a serious violation of the rules and regulations of the district.</p>
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<p>2. Definitions SC 1317.2</p>	<p>Weapon – the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, knuckle rings, firearm, bb gun, pellet gun, shotgun, rifle, explosive device, and/or any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term weapon shall also include objects which have the appearance or characteristics of weapons as defined in Board policy, or objects which are intended and capable of producing bodily injury. Weapons shall also include look-alike or replica weapons that are not necessarily operable.</p> <p>Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school. Additionally, a student will be deemed to be in possession of a weapon if the weapon is found in his/her personal property (for example, a book bag, gym bag, or purse), in the student's locker, or in a place where the individual exercises exclusive control, such as a personal vehicle.</p>
<p>3. Authority SC 1317.2</p>	<p>The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq</p>	<p>In the case of a student with disabilities, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1317.2</p>	<p>An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.</p> <p>Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.</p>

<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p>School personnel will be instructed in the law regarding weapons on school property. Also, personnel will be instructed regarding the handling of weapons situations.</p> <p><u>Staff and Student Expectations</u></p> <p>Staff members and students observing or otherwise becoming aware of weapons on school property, at school activities, or on school transportation shall report the same to the administration immediately. Administrators shall report students suspected of possessing weapons on school property, at school activities, or on school transportation to the student's parents/guardians and appropriate law enforcement officials immediately, in accordance with the provisions of the memorandum of understanding developed between the district and local law enforcement, pursuant to law.</p> <p>Staff members shall cooperate with law enforcement officials in the detection and prosecution of all violators of this policy.</p> <p>The district shall inform students, staff, and parents/guardians of the policy regarding weapons at least annually.</p> <p>School personnel who supply information relating to this policy are immune from prosecution, as defined in law. This immunity is guaranteed even if the information is determined to be inaccurate, if the information provided was given in good faith and with the best interest of the school community in mind.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>To the greatest extent possible, information which is supplied by students shall be kept confidential to protect the students making the reports. However, the district has the legal responsibility to report during a school year to the Office of Safe Schools all new incidents involving acts of violence on school property. Such report shall include: age or grade of student; name and address of school; circumstances surrounding the incident, including type of weapon; sanction imposed by the district; notification of law enforcement; remedial programs involved; parental involvement required; and arrests, convictions, and adjudications, if known. Such reporting shall be the responsibility of the Board Secretary or designee.</p> <p><u>Discipline</u></p> <p>Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be denied access to the schools and school-related property of the district and shall be denied the opportunity to participate in student activities.</p>

Pol. 233	<p>Students found to be in violation of this policy regarding the possession of weapons or knowledge of and failure to properly report the possession of a weapon in school buildings or school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary educational institutions of the district shall be immediately suspended for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days, or until such a time as the Board conducts a hearing on the matter, whichever period is shorter.</p>
SC 1317.2 Pol. 233.1	<p>The Board, after a hearing on the matter, may permanently expel a student for violating this policy.</p>
SC 1317.2 Pol. 233.1	<p>The Board shall expel for a period of at least one (1) year any student who is determined to have brought a weapon onto any school property, any school-sponsored activity, or any conveyance providing transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity. Discipline short of expulsion for one (1) year is legal only when recommended by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision to recommend a modification of the one (1) year expulsion should be made on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The administration shall report every student violation of this policy to the Board on the approved form.</p>
SC 1317.2	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.</p>
SC 1317.2 Title 22 Sec. 12.6, 12.8 Pol. 233.1	<p>Because violation of this policy may result in the expulsion of a student, students subject to discipline shall be entitled to a formal hearing, pursuant to law and Board policy.</p>
SC 1317.2	<p><u>Defenses</u></p> <p>It shall be a defense that the weapon is possessed and used in conjunction with a lawful, supervised school activity or course.</p> <p>Staff members shall keep supervised school activities or course requirements involving the possession of weapons to a minimum. To that end, staff members shall be encouraged to find alternative means of conducting activities or courses where weapons might be brought to school or school-sponsored activities. For example, rather than allowing props to be brought for a speech assignment, have the student bring a picture of the item.</p>

<p>SC 1317.2</p> <p>School Code 1303-A, 1317.2</p> <p>18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922</p> <p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq</p> <p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 7151</p> <p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114</p> <p>Board Policy 233</p>	<p>If weapons are brought to school for an approved school or school-related activity, students must follow district procedure. The student's parent/guardian must bring the weapon to the school office to be left with an administrator. The parent/guardian must return at the end of the day to retrieve the weapon from the school office.</p> <p><u>Transfer Students</u></p> <p>When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.</p>
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