



501
SCHOOL WEAPONS POLICY

APPROVED: 04/2000

UPDATED: 04/2023

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe and orderly learning and working environment for students, staff, and the public.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A.** No student or non-student, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use, or distribute a weapon when in a school location.
- B.** Students who become aware of a weapon being brought to school or on school property must immediately notify an adult staff member. Students should not, however, pick up or transport the weapon.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Weapon"

1. A "weapon" means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
2. No student shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
3. No student shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

- B. "School Location"** includes a school building, school grounds, school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles,



school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, and all school-related functions

- C. "Possession" means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location

IV. PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY

The following procedures shall apply to any possession, use, or distribution of a weapon by a student:

- A. The weapon will be immediately confiscated;
- B. An investigation shall be conducted by the principal or principal's designee;
- C. Immediate or continuing effort will be made to notify parent or guardian;
- D. Police will be immediately notified;
- E. Superintendent of Schools or designee will be notified.

V. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION

- A. Pursuant to Minnesota law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school will be expelled for at least one calendar year.
- B. The school district and each school take a position of "Zero Tolerance" in regard to the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students. Thus, the consequences for students possessing, using or distributing weapons shall include:
 - 1. confiscation of the weapon;
 - 2. immediate out-of-school suspension and notification of parent or guardian pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
 - 3. notification of police;
 - 4. notification of parent or guardian of school sanctions;
 - 5. Recommendation to the Administrator/School Board for further disciplinary action which may include expulsion for one calendar year.

VI. POLICY APPLICATION TO INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT/TOOLS

The "Zero Tolerance" position of the school on the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students is not meant to interfere with instruction or use of appropriate equipment and tools by students. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used, and stored, shall not be considered in



violation of this policy forbidding the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

VII. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NONSTUDENTS

A. Employees

1. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the District.
2. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and District policies.
3. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.

B. Other Nonstudents

1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school district, that school district may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

Implementation of this policy will occur immediately and will include education of students, staff, and parents.

LEGAL REFERENCES: