



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1
Status	First Reading
Adopted	November 13, 1997
Last Revised	February 12, 2026
Prior Revised Dates	12/1/2022, 08/08/2024

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Definitions

Weapon - the term shall include but is not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Possession - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker or assigned storage area; or 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.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored activity, or while the student is coming to or from school.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The Board shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law and Board policy.[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.[\[2\]](#)

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board

policies.[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, and the district's emergency preparedness plan.[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

Reporting

Law Enforcement Incident Report -

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[\[2\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

Parental Report - Direct Involvement -

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

Additional Parental and Employee Notifications -

The Superintendent or designee shall, in accordance with applicable law, ensure notification of an incident involving possession of a weapon on school property, at a school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity, to employees and parents/guardians of students, as follows:[\[12\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

- 1. Incident occurring at a school building - Notification to parents/guardians of students enrolled in or attending that school building and school employees assigned to that building.**
- 2. Incident occurring at a school building that shares a campus with other school buildings - Notification to parents/guardians of students enrolled or attending and school employees assigned to any building on the shared campus.**
- 3. Incident occurring at a school-sponsored activity or on a public conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity - Notification to the appropriate population of parents/guardians and school employees. Notification is not required if the incident is not directly related to the school-sponsored activity or the students or staff involved in the activity.**

Such notification(s) must occur within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident using a method of communication likely to reach designated parents/guardians and employees, unless the circumstances of the incident necessitate otherwise.[\[12\]](#)

Annual School Safety and Security Incidents Report -

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving possession of a weapon to the PA Department of Education on the required form.[\[11\]](#) [\[13\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

Guidelines

The building principal shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the Board policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the school community.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, in accordance with law, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative regulations to be followed.[\[2\]](#)

In accordance with federal law, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.[\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)

Transfer Students

When the 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.[\[2\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

NOTES:

Gun-Free School Zone Act was found unconstitutional – change language to read “In accordance with federal law...” and keep cites to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922.

The “replica of a weapon” language in the policy definition of “weapon” is not included in School Code 1301-A or 1317.2; it was included because PSBA and solicitors agree that districts may define “weapon” through policy based on their needs—that language was included as a recommendation from a school safety standpoint, since it is often difficult to tell whether a weapon, particularly a gun, is real or a model.

PSBA Revision 12/25 © 2025 PSBA

Legal

- [1. 24 P.S. 1301-A](#)
- [2. 24 P.S. 1317.2](#)
- 3. Pol. 218
- 4. Pol. 113.1
- 5. Pol. 233
- [6. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)
- [7. 22 PA Code 10.23](#)
- 8. Pol. 103.1

- 9. Pol. 113.2
- 10. Pol. 113.3
- 11. Pol. 805.1
- [12. 24 P.S. 1303.2-A](#)
- [13. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)
- 14. Pol. 805
- [15. 24 P.S. 1302-E](#)
- 16. Pol. 236.1
- [17. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)
- [18. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)
- [19. 22 PA Code 10.21](#)
- [20. 22 PA Code 10.25](#)
- [21. 20 U.S.C. 1232g](#)
- [22. 18 U.S.C. 921](#)
- [23. 18 U.S.C. 922](#)
- 24. Pol. 200
- [18 Pa. C.S.A. 912](#)
- [20 U.S.C. 7114](#)
- [20 U.S.C. 7961](#)
- [22 PA Code 403.1](#)
- [34 CFR Part 300](#)

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