

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 Pupils

TITLE: Weapons

ADOPTED: August 24, 2011

REVISED: January 18, 2018

218.1 WEAPONS

Purpose

The School Reform Commission 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 - any object, device, or instrument that is designed as a weapon or that is capable of threatening or inflicting serious bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to: any firearm, shotgun, or rifle, whether loaded or unloaded; any knife, cutting instrument, or cutting tool; any nunchaku; any chemical agents such as pepper spray or mace; stun gun; incendiary device; and any other tool, instrument or object used or intended to be used to inflict serious bodily injury to another. The term shall also include any simulated, replica, toy, or look-alike weapon.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

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 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 SRC 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 or from any school or a school-sponsored activity.[\[2\]](#)

The SRC 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 SRC policy. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

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 local law enforcement and SRC policies.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

The SRC authorizes the administration to conduct searches of students or their belongings to aid in the detection of weapons. Searches shall be conducted in accordance with SRC policy.[\[12\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent, Office of School Safety, or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon on school property. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials and the District's emergency preparedness plan.[\[10\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

The Superintendent, Office of School Safety, 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 local police department 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 local law enforcement and SRC policies.[\[2\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

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 possible. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document the attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[\[10\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving possession of a weapon to the Office for Safe Schools using the required form.[\[10\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

Mandatory Regulatory Guidelines

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

This policy shall not apply to a weapon, or item that otherwise would be considered a weapon, being used as part of a supervised school program approved by the district by an individual who is participating in the program.[\[2\]](#)

Additional exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative procedures to be followed. In no case shall an exception to this policy violate local ordinances regarding possession of weapons.

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 that the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 1301-A

2. 24 P.S. 1317.2

3. Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 10, Section 10-833

1. Pol. 233 - Suspension and Expulsion

5. 22 PA Code 10.23

6. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq

7. Pol. 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students

8. Pol. 113.1 - Discipline of Students With Disabilities

9. Pol. 113.2 - Behavior Support

10. Pol. 805.1 - Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies

11. Memorandum of Understanding between the Philadelphia Police Department and the School District of Philadelphia, 2016

12. Pol. 226 - Searches

13. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A

14. Pol. 805 - Emergency Preparedness

15. 24 P.S. 1303-A

16. 22 PA Code 10.2

17. 22 PA Code 10.21

18. 22 PA Code 10.25

Related Information:

22 PA Code 403.1

18 Pa. C.S.A. 912

18 U.S.C. 921

18 U.S.C. 922

20 U.S.C. 7114

20 U.S.C. 7151

34 CFR Part 300

Pol. 218 - Student Conduct and Discipline

Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 10, Sections 10-810, 10-816, 10-825, 10-826