

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 218.1
Section: 200 Pupils/Students
Title: Weapons
Adopted: August 24, 2011
Revised: February 26, 2026

218.1 Weapons

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to making every School District of Philadelphia (“District”) school a safe, welcoming, and healthy place. The purpose of this policy is to prohibit the possession of weapons in the school setting, as it is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Authority

As required by Pennsylvania Public School Code, the Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons into any District buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any District or public vehicle providing transportation to or from any school or a school-sponsored activity.[1][2] For the purposes of this policy, placing a weapon inside an amnesty box shall not constitute bringing a weapon onto school property under the Pennsylvania School Code.

The Board may expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Students are entitled to formal due process proceedings, as required by law and Board policy before being expelled. The Superintendent, or their designee, shall review each incident and recommend expulsion or other discipline on a case-by-case basis, with the critical goals of maintaining the opportunity for educational continuity, achievement, and inclusion in the school community for all students.[1][3] Factors that will be considered include, but are not limited to, intent to use the weapon, disability status, and mental health needs.

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 Board policies. [1][4][5][6][7][8][9]

The Board authorizes the administration to conduct searches of students or their belongings to aid in the detection of weapons in accordance with Board [Policy 226 - Searches](#) and [Policy 817 - Use of Scanning Equipment to Detect Weapons](#). [10][11]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent, or their designee, to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy.

The Board directs the Superintendent, or their designee, to 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, Board policies, this policy's administrative procedures, and the District's emergency preparedness plan. [10][12][13][14]

Mandatory Procedures

The District 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.

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. § 1317.2](#)
2. Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 10, § 10-833
3. [Policy 233](#) - Suspension and Expulsion
4. [22 Pa. Code § 10.23](#)
5. [20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq](#)
6. [Policy 103.1](#) - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students
7. [Policy 113.1](#) - Discipline of Students With Disabilities
8. [Policy 113.2](#) - Behavior Support
9. [Policy 805.1](#) - Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies
10. [Policy 226](#) - Searches
11. [Policy 817](#) - Use of Scanning Equipment to Detect Weapons
12. [Policy 805](#) - Emergency Preparedness
13. [22 Pa. Code § 10.2](#)
14. [22 PA Code § 10.21](#)

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. § 7961](#)~~151~~
- [34 CFR Part 300](#)
- [Policy 218](#) - Student Conduct and Discipline
- School District of Philadelphia [Code of Conduct](#)
- Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 10, Sections 10-810, 10-816, 10-825, 10-826