THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: August 24, 2011

REVISED:

	218.1. WEAPONS
1. 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.
2. Definitions SC 1317.2 Pol. 237	**Weapon** - shall mean any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or 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; laser pointers; stun gun; incendiary device; any other tool, instrument or object used or intended to be used to inflict serious bodily to another. The term **weapon** shall also include any simulated, replica, toy, or look-alike weapon. **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.
3. Authority SC 1317.2	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 school or a school-sponsored activity.
Pol. 226, 817	The SRC authorizes the use of administrative entry searches and the use of scanning equipment to aid in the detection of weapons.
SC 1317.2 Pol. 233	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.

SC 1317.2 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq Pol. 113.1	In the case of a student with disabilities, the district shall take all steps required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and follow SRC policy.
	In accordance with local ordinance, possession of a firearm in or within 100 feet of a school building is prohibited.
SC 1317.2	The discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy shall be reported promptly to the student's parents/guardians and to local law enforcement officials.
4. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1302.1-A	The building principal or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning weapons on school property. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulation and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials.
	The Superintendent or designee shall:
SC 1317.2	1. Report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.
SC 1303-A Pol. 225	2. Ensure that the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person occurs on school property.
SC 1303-A	Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of SRC policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools as required by law and regulations.
5. 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.
SC 1317.2	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.
	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.

	<u>Transfer Students</u>
SC 1317.2	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.
	References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1301-A, 1302.1-A, 1303-A, 1317.2 Philadelphia Code of Ordinances – Title 10, Section 10-810, 10-816, 10-825, 10-826, 10-833 State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 403.1 Possession of Weapon on School Property – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 912 Gun Control Act – 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq. Gun-Free Schools Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7151 No Child Left Behind Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114 Individuals With Disabilities Education, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 300 School Reform Commission Policy – 113.1, 218, 226, 233, 237, 816, 817