

POLICY 832 part 1

WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS

I. Purpose

The Purpose of this policy shall be:

- A. To define unacceptable behavior in terms of weapons and appropriate sanctions for violation of this policy.
- B. To ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors in the Independence Public Schools.

II. Policy

1. No student or student visitor shall possess a weapon before, during or after school hours in any school district location as defined below.
2. Possession refers to having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control on school property or at a school trip or activity or any school district location.
3. School district location means in any school building or on any school premises; in any school owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-approved or school-sponsored activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the School District.

III. Definitions

1. *Weapons*: Weapons means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, any device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or death, or any device or instrument that is used to threaten or cause bodily harm or death. Some examples of weapons are guns, knives, clubs, razors, chains, clubs, metal knuckles, nunchaku, throwing stars, explosives, stuntguns, ammunition, containers of tear gas, and chemical irritants (e.g., pepper spray).¹
2. *Toy or Imitation Weapons*: Toy or imitation weapons include, but are not limited to, water guns, poppers, caps, non-working replicas of weapons and war souvenirs.*

¹ ***Note*** that the list of weapons is illustrative only and is not intended to be an inclusive listing of all weapons or look-alike weapons as defined in this policy.

3. *Exceptions:* The building administrator may allow weapons in the building for purposes of demonstration or educational presentations. This approval must be in writing and granted prior to the weapons being brought to school. The principal shall secure the weapons except during the actual demonstration or presentation.

IV. Situations

1. Law enforcement officials will be summoned to the schools in a situation involving a weapon that presents an immediate threat to safety. If the situation does not allow an opportunity to contact law enforcement officials immediately, school staff and the administration shall attempt, if possible without jeopardizing the safety of themselves or others, to diffuse and control the situation until law enforcement officials can be summoned.
2. Persons violating board policy shall be handled as follows:
 - a. Any student who possesses, uses or stores a weapons on school property, on school buses, or at any school-related event may be suspended for up to 15 consecutive days if a notice of expulsion is sent. Otherwise, a student may be suspended for up to five consecutive school days. Students may be suspended and/or expelled from school consistent with state and federal law requirements. Student shall be afforded due process before the implementation of disciplinary actions according the to the district's discipline, suspensions and expulsion policy and procedures.
 - b. Disciplinary measures taken shall be the responsibility of the building administration. Circumstances involving a policy violation, including the age of the student and state or federal law, shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary action is being determined.

V. References

The following laws, statutes and ordinances are referenced and included herein:

- * Statute 939.22(14) Great Bodily Harm
- * Statute 941.2965 (1) Possession of a Facsimile Firearm
- * Statute 18 USC 921 (a) (3) Felony; Possession on School Property
- * Statute 948.605 Gun-Free School Zones
- * Statute 948.61 Dangerous Weapons Other than Firearms on School Premises
- * Pupil Fair Dismissal Act of 1974

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