

Book	Policy Manual
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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1301-A 2. 24 P.S. 1317.2 3. 24 P.S. 1850.1 4. Pol. 218 5. Pol. 233 6. 22 PA Code 10.23 7. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq 8. Pol. 103.1 9. Pol. 113.1 10. Pol. 113.2 11. Pol. 805.1 12. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A 13. Pol. 805 14. 24 P.S. 1303-A 15. 22 PA Code 10.2 16. 22 PA Code 10.21 17. 22 PA Code 10.25 18. 18 U.S.C. 921 19. 18 U.S.C. 922 18 Pa. C.S.A. 912 20 U.S.C. 7114 22 PA Code 403.1 20 U.S.C. 7961 34 CFR Part 300
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Purpose

The **Joint** Operating Committee 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; with the exception of a law enforcement officer.

Definitions

Weapon - the term shall include but not be limited to: any knife, cutting instrument, **or** cutting tool, **which includes** straight razors and razor blades; nunchakus; brass knuckles; firearms, **including** shotguns, rifles, BB **guns**, pellet guns, **and** the frame or receiver of any such instrument; any firearm **suppressor**; chemical agents; noxious, irritating, incendiary, or poisonous gases, including mace and pepper spray; explosive devices, **such as** bombs, rockets, missiles, or a similar device; **any replica of a weapon**; chains; and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury, **including those** designed for protection.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

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, 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 **Joint** Operating Committee prohibits **students from** possessing **and bringing** weapons and replicas of weapons into any school buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and **onto** any **vehicle** providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity, **or while the student is coming to or from school.**[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

The **Joint Operating Committee** shall, **in coordination with the school district of residence**, 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. The Director may recommend **modifications** of such expulsion **requirement** on a case-by-case basis.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

In the case of a student **with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending**, the **school** 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 Joint Operating Committee policies.**[\[2\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Director or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. 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 and the school's emergency preparedness plan.[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

Guidelines

The Director **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 school or a 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 Joint Operating Committee policies.[\[2\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

The Director 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 Director 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 Director or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.**[\[11\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

In accordance with state law, the Director shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving weapons to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.[\[11\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

An exception to this policy may be made by the Director, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.[\[2\]](#)

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

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.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

Transfer Students

When the school receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the school may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.[\[2\]](#)