



Book	Southern Lehigh School District
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1 Vol III 2021
Status	Active
Adopted	June 12, 1995
Last Reviewed/Revised	September 27, 2021

Purpose

The Board 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 - the term shall include but **is** not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

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 **or assigned storage area**; **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 Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to **or from** school or a school-sponsored activity, or while the student is coming to or from school. [\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The Board 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 Board policy. [\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

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

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. [\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. 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. [\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. [\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

Guidelines

The Superintendent 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 Board policies. [\[2\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

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 practicable. 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 attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. [\[11\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

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 on the required form. [\[11\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

The building principal 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.

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

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.[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

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 the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.[\[2\]](#)[\[22\]](#)

NOTES:

Gun-Free School Zone Act was found unconstitutional – change language to read “In accordance with federal law...” and keep cites to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922.

The “replica of a weapon” language in the policy definition of “weapon” is not included in School Code 1301-A or 1317.2; it was included because PSBA and solicitors agree that districts may define “weapon” through policy based on their needs—that language was included as a recommendation from a school safety standpoint, since it is often difficult to tell whether a weapon, particularly a gun, is real or a model.

PSBA Revision 6/21 © 2021 PSBA

Legal References

1. 24 P.S. 1301-A
2. 24 P.S. 1317.2
3. Pol. 218
4. Pol. 113.1

5. Pol. 233
6. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
7. 22 PA Code 10.23
8. Pol. 103.1
9. Pol. 113.2
10. Pol. 113.3
11. Pol. 805.1
12. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
13. Pol. 805
14. 24 P.S. 1302-E
15. Pol. 236.1
16. 24 P.S. 1303-A
17. 22 PA Code 10.2
18. 22 PA Code 10.21
19. 22 PA Code 10.25
20. 18 U.S.C. 921
21. 18 U.S.C. 922
22. Pol. 200
- 18 Pa. C.S.A. 912
- 20 U.S.C. 7114
- 20 U.S.C. 7961
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 34 CFR Part 300