

# SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

ADOPTED: June 12, 1995

REVISED: August 25, 1997,  
November 27, 2001,  
October 14, 2013

<p><i>Formerly policy 6202</i></p> <p>1. Purpose and Authority 24 P.S. §13-1317.2</p> <p>2. Definitions 18 Pa.C.S.A. §912 24 P.S. §13-1317.2</p> <p>3. Guidelines 24 P.S. §13-1317.2 (d)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">218.1. POSSESSION OF WEAPONS</p> <p>The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law. No students shall possess, handle or transmit any weapon, as hereinafter defined, on school property, any school-sponsored activity, or any public conveyance providing transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity, or any event or function held away from school, with the exception as hereinafter set forth.</p> <p>Weapon - shall include any metal instrument, or implement capable of directly or indirectly inflicting serious bodily injury, or other object, facsimile or look-alike that can be considered to be a weapon, including, but not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, razor, ice pick, any explosive device of any kind, including firecrackers, tear gas canisters, smoke bombs, or chains, loaded cane, sword cane, loaded or unloaded fire arms, including pellet guns, BB guns, any Bowie knife, Dirk knife, lock-blade, hunting knife, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.</p> <p>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 desk; under the student's control while s/he is on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school-sponsored event held away from the school; or while the student is on his/her way to or from school on public transportation or school transportation.</p> <p>Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the aforesaid instruments or devices may be brought into school for legitimate school purposes, such as to assist in a speech, exhibition or project in connection with any course or extracurricular activity sponsored by the School District, but only after pre-approval is made by the principal or designee prior to said event. In such event, said device shall be required to be deposited with the principal or designee at the school office until such time in the school day as it may be needed when it would be checked out of the school office for that limited period of time. Further, parental permission shall be required in writing for the same. The provisions of this policy shall not apply to the following: (i) a weapon being used as part of a program approved by a school by an individual who is participating in the program; or (ii) a weapon that is unloaded and</p>
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	<p>is possessed by an individual while traversing school property for the purpose of obtaining access to public or private lands used for lawful hunting, if the entry on school premises is authorized by school authorities.</p>
24 P.S. §13-1317.2 (a)	<p>Any person who is discovered to be in violation of this policy by possessing any weapon as defined in this policy shall be subject to have said weapon immediately seized by school personnel, and except as otherwise provided in this policy, a student shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year.</p>
24 P.S. §13-1317.2 (c)	<p>The Superintendent or his or her designee may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirements for a student on a case by case basis. The Superintendent or other chief administrative officer shall, in the case of an exceptional student, take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Chapters 12, 14, and 15 of Pennsylvania Code, and to follow Board policy.</p>
20 U.S.C. §1415(k) 34 C.F.R. §§530-536 29 U.S.C. § 794 34 C.F.R. §104.35 22 Pa.C.S. §12.6 22 Pa.C.S. §14.143	
24 P.S. §13-1317.2 (f)	<p>The Superintendent or his or her designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to local law enforcement officials. The Superintendent or his or her designee shall report to the Department of Education all incidents relating to expulsions for possession of a weapon in accordance with this policy.</p>
24 P.S. §13-1317.2 (e)(1)	<p>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.</p>