

WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOL

NEPN/NSBA Code: JICI

In an effort to ensure a safe environment for students and employees, all persons are prohibited from the following conduct at all times on school premises, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity:

- A. Knowing possession or use of articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to intimidate other persons. Examples of such articles include, but are not limited to: firearms, ammunition, explosives, “brass” knuckles, switchblades, butterfly knives, chains, clubs, and Kung Fu “stars”.
- B. Use of any object as a weapon, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict or to threaten bodily harm and/or to intimidate, coerce or harass. Examples of such objects include, but are not limited to: belts, other articles of clothing, combs, pencils, files, compasses, scissors, and replicas of weapons.

Administrative Implementation Procedures

The superintendent shall be responsible for the development and dissemination of appropriate regulations and procedures to implement relevant law, board policy and good practice which shall include these basic components:

- A. Administrators shall take appropriate action against any individual violating this policy, including, but not limited to, student discipline and/or action by law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Students who violate this policy shall be expelled under the Title 20-A MRSA section 1001(9) (1993) which provides that, if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school, the school board shall expel any student:

1. Who is deliberately disobedient or deliberately disorderly;
2. For infractions of violence;
3. Who possesses on school property a firearm as defined in Title 17-A MRSA section 2, subsection 12-A, without permission of a school official (see 20-A MRSA section 6552); and
4. Who, with use of any other dangerous weapon as defined in Title 17-A MRSA section 2, subsection 9, paragraph A, intentionally or knowingly causes injury or accompanies use of a weapon with a threat to cause injury.

B. As required by Section 1302 of the GOALS 200: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921) to school will be expelled from the regular school program for at least one year. This may be modified on a case-by-case basis by the superintendent. Such modification may include placement in alternative educational programs.

C. Administrators will confiscate any article described in this policy and, if appropriate, submit it to a suitable law enforcement agency.

D. Principals may authorize inspections of student lockers, automobiles, clothing, purses, bags, backpacks and other personal belongings when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the inspection will produce evidence that this policy has been violated.

Such regulations are also to include appropriate rules, sanctions and procedures regarding violence and/or use of weapons by employees, visitors, or other persons in addition to students.

Role of School Staff

School personnel will take appropriate action to secure the health and safety of students during any altercation involving violence and/or use of a weapon. With the objective of defusing potentially violent situations and student anger, school staff will receive training in recognition, prevention and responding to violence. Incidents are to be reported immediately to an appropriate administrator.

Alternative Conflict Resolution

To reduce potential violence in the schools, the superintendent will be responsible for developing procedures for implementing programs of information, prevention and intervention in violent circumstances. This may be accomplished through peer mediation, counseling, parent involvement, services of community agencies or other activities suitable to the school unit.

Legal Reference: 20A MRSA, SEC. 1001.9; 6552
17-A MRSA SEC. 2.9; 2.12, A
GOALS 200: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT, PUBL L. 103-227, SEC.1302

Cross Reference:

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