

POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation or areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities except as provided in this policy. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to firearms, knives, sling shots, sand clubs, metal knuckles, daggers, dirks, nun-chu-ka sticks, personal protection spray, throwing stars, air guns, stun guns, and devices intended to injure a person by an electric shock. Any other device or object used or attempted to be used to inflict bodily harm on a person may be considered a weapon.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a school environment that is conducive to learning. The underlying belief of this policy is that all children have the right to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. Therefore, violations of these rights and violations of the atmosphere which supports sound education will not be tolerated.

The following persons may carry firearms into school buildings, as necessary, although students engaged in these activities are restricted to the possession of rifles on school premises:

- A. Persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or school district security activities;
- B. Persons involved in a school authorized demonstration, lecture, or firearm safety course;
- C. Any federal, state or local law enforcement officer

Anyone found in violation of this policy will be referred to local law enforcement officials for appropriate consequences to the full extent of the law.

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to the school discipline process. The district may suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice, and displays an instrument that appears to be a weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being used exclusively for school activities. School officials shall notify the student's parents or guardians and the appropriate law enforcement agency of known or suspected violations of this policy.

The superintendent is directed to see that all school facilities post "Gun-Free Zone" signs.

LEGAL REFERENCES: MGL, Chapter 269, Section 10

CROSS REFERENCES: Policy JICI