

STUDENTS

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Possession and/or use of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon by a student on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the district. Possession and/or use of any firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon in any school building on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Such weapons include but are not limited to any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun, slingshot, bludgeon, brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind, gravity knives, knives having a blade of greater than two inches, any knife the blade of which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, any pocketknife, where the blade is carried in a partially opened position, or destructive device.

Possession of or bringing such weapons, instruments or devices on school grounds or other areas under the control of the Board of Education may also be a violation of criminal law. Any violation of this policy shall, therefore, be reported immediately to the local law enforcement agency, the Board of Education, and, if possible, the parent or guardian. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as possible court action.

A student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violative of the Board's publicized policies may also be grounds for expulsion. In making a determination as to whether conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Board may consider, among other things: (A) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (B) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (C) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in C.G.S. Section 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and (D) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol. A student found to be in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon, as defined by law, or who is involved in the sale or distribution of a controlled substance, as defined in C.G.S. Section 21a-240(9) shall be subject to an expulsion of one calendar year. The expulsion period may be modified on a case by case basis.

Any dangerous device, instrument, or weapon may be seized by an employee of the school system under the power granted to the Board of Education to maintain order and discipline in the schools, and to protect the safety of students, staff and the public. Every employee seizing any such device, weapon or instrument under the provision of this policy shall report the incident to the building principal immediately, and deliver the seized item to the principal, together with the names of persons involved, witnesses, location and circumstances of the seizure. If an employee knows or has reason to suspect that a student has possession of such an item but the item has not been seized, the employee shall report the matter to the principal immediately, and the principal shall take such action as is appropriate. The principal shall report all violations of this policy to the Superintendent or designee, and to the local law enforcement agency on approval of the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules as amended
10-233a through 10-233f - Expulsion as amended
21a-240 (9) Definitions
29-38 Weapons in vehicles
53a-3 Definitions as amended
53a-217b - Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds as amended
53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons as amended
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions as amended

Policy adopted: June 25, 1996
Revision adopted: October 20, 1998

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Students in violation of this policy are subject to the following disciplinary measures:

1. Possession of a firearm, dangerous instrument, deadly weapon or martial arts weapon, as defined by law, on school property or at a school sponsored activity:
 - A. Referral to law enforcement agency
 - B. Recommendation to be expelled for one year

2. Possession of a facsimile of a firearm on school property or at a school sponsored activity:
 - A. Referral to law enforcement agency
 - B. Recommendation for expulsion hearing

3. Possession and use on school property or at a school sponsored activity of any instrument in a manner to inflict bodily harm or to intimidate or threaten:
 - A. Referral to law enforcement agency
 - B. Recommendation for expulsion hearing

Students and parents or guardians shall be notified of this policy annually.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

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 Putnam, Connecticut

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