



POLICY 212 -- WEAPONS

1. Purpose

It shall be the intent of the Board to comply with Act 26 of 1995, 24 PS Subsection 1317.2, concerning the possession of weapons by a school student.

2. Definitions

The term "weapon" shall include, but not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

3. Policy

Any professional staff member, school employee, and/or student who knows or ascertains that a student is in possession of a weapon in contravention of this policy shall immediately inform the building principal who will conduct a complete investigation.

Upon suspicion that a student possesses a weapon, the principal may search the person, the clothing, and personal belongings including any bag, purse, backpack, parcel, locker, and vehicle of the student in the presence of another adult witness. If the student resists being searched, the principal will immediately summon the police and request assistance in this matter from the local police.

Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon onto any school property, any school sponsored activity, or any public conveyance providing transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity will immediately be reported to the local law enforcement agency by the school Superintendent.

The student shall be afforded a formal hearing before the Board in accordance with formal hearing for expulsion proceedings under the Pennsylvania School Code. The Board shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who is found to have violated this policy. The Superintendent may recommend discipline short of expulsion on a case-by-case basis. Any discipline involving a special education student will be subject to provisions of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and accompanying Commonwealth law and regulations. Parents should be notified as soon as possible.

4. Investigation Responsibilities

The principal will coordinate the formal hearing procedure e.g., investigation, securing written statements, witness statements, and anecdotal records substantiating the charges of possession, transmitting and/or transporting a weapon, the informative and notification requirements for a formal hearing for expulsion proceedings in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, with the assistance of the Assistant Superintendent and other members of the professional staff as designated by the Superintendent.