

Students

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

The Board of Trustees recognizes students and staff have the right to a safe and secure campus free from psychological and physical harm and desires to protect them from the dangers presented by firearms and other weapons.

Possession of Weapons

The Board prohibits any student from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity away from school, or while going to or coming from school.

Unless he/she has obtained prior written permission as specified below, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm at school, as verified by a school employee, shall be expelled for not less than one year, except that the Board may set an earlier date for readmission on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48915; 20USC 7151)

Students possessing or threatening others with any weapon, dangerous instrument, or imitation firearm are subject to suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Under the power granted to the Board to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety of students, staff and the public, any school employee is authorized to confiscate a weapon, dangerous instrument or imitation firearm from any person on school grounds.

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a firearm, explosive, or other dangerous weapon or instrument without permission or sells or furnishes a firearm, or commits any act of assault with a firearm or other weapon. (Education Code 48902; Penal Code 245, 626.9, 626.10; 20 USC 1751)

Advance Permission for Possession of a Firearm for Educational Use

A student who desires to possess a firearm or imitation firearm or other prohibited weapon on school grounds for an educational purpose shall request prior permission from the principal at least five school days in advance of the planned possession. The student's parent/guardian shall provide written permission explaining the planned use of the weapon and the duration. The student shall also submit a written explanation from the staff person responsible for the school-sponsored activity or class.

On a case-by-case basis, the principal shall determine whether to grant permission for such possession when necessary for a school-sponsored activity or class or as part of the educational program. Factors that shall be considered include, but are not limited to, the planned use of the weapon, the duration and location of the planned use, whether an audience is expected, and any perceived adverse effects to the safety and well-being of students or staff. If the principal grants

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such permission, he/she shall provide the student and staff person with a written explanation regarding any limitations and the permissible duration of the student's possession.

When the principal or designee grants permission, he/she shall take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all persons on school grounds, including, but not limited to, inspecting a firearm to verify that no live ammunition is present. A weapon allowed shall be stored in a locked vehicle or in an appropriate, locked container before and after its authorized use.

A student granted permission to possess a firearm may be suspended and/or expelled if he/she possesses or uses the weapon inappropriately.

Possession of Pepper Spray

To prevent potential misuse that may harm students or staff, students are prohibited from carrying tear gas or tear gas weapons such as pepper spray on campus or at school activities.

Reporting of Dangerous Objects

The Board encourages students to promptly report the presence of weapons, injurious objects, or other suspicious activity to school authorities. The identity of a student who reports such activity shall remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies designed to facilitate student reporting of the presence of injurious objects on school grounds, such as tip hotlines, electronic transmissions, or other methods that preserve the student's anonymity. Incident reports and records shall not identify the student who reported the possession. The Superintendent or designee shall inform staff, students and parents/guardians that students who report the presence of injurious objects on school campuses are to be protected and their identity shielded.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35291 Governing board to prescribe rules for discipline of the schools

48900 Grounds for suspension/expulsion

48902 Notification of law enforcement authorities

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS (continued)

- 48915 Required recommendation for expulsions
- 48916 Readmission
- 49330-49335 Injurious objects

PENAL CODE

- 245 Assault with deadly weapon
- 417.4 Imitation firearm; drawing or exhibiting
- 626.9 Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995
- 626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives, razor or stun gun; bringing or possessing in school
- 653k Soliciting a minor to commit certain felonies
- 12001 Control of deadly weapons
- 12020-12036 Unlawful carrying and possession of concealed weapons
- 12220 Unauthorized possession of a machine gun
- 12401-12404 Tear gas
- 12550-12556 BB devices and imitation firearms

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 6301-7941 No Child Left Behind Act, especially:
- 7151 Gun-Free Schools Act

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS

0401.01 Protecting Student Identification in Reporting Injurious Objects

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Guidance Concerning State and Local Responsibilities Under the Gun-Free Schools Act, January 2004

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/l/s/ss>

National Alliance for Safe Schools: <http://www.safeschools.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs>

10/94 2/96) 7/01
7/24/02
(2/96 7/01) 7/04
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3/08
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8/10

Students

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Prohibited weapons and dangerous instruments include, but are not limited to:

1. Firearms: pistols, revolvers, shotguns, rifles, "zip guns," "stun guns," tasers, and any other device capable of propelling a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion
2. Knives, razor blades, and box cutters: any dirks, daggers, ice picks, or other weapons with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, weapons with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing, weapons with a blade longer than 2-1/2 inches, folding knives with a blade that locks into place, and razors with an unguarded blade (Education Code 48915; and Penal Code 626.10)
3. Explosive and/or incendiary devices: pipe bombs, time bombs, cap guns, containers of inflammable fluids, and other hazardous devices
4. Any instrument that expels a metallic projectile, such as a BB or a pellet, through the force of air pressure, carbon dioxide pressure or spring action, or any spot marker gun (Penal Code 626.10)
5. Any other dangerous device, instrument or weapon, including those defined in Penal Code 12020, including a blackjack, slingshot, billy, nunchaku, sandclub, sandbag, metal knuckles, or any metal plate with three or more radiating points with one or more sharp edges designed for use as a weapon
6. Any imitation firearm, defined as a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm (Education Code 48900; Penal Code 12550)

Any employee may take any weapon or dangerous instrument from the personal possession of a student while the student is on school premises or under the authority of the district. (Education Code 49331, 49332)

In determining whether to take possession of the weapon or dangerous instrument, the employee shall use his/her own judgment as to the dangerousness of the situation and, based upon this analysis, shall do one of the following:

1. Confiscate the object and deliver it to the principal immediately
2. Immediately notify the principal, who shall take appropriate action
3. Immediately notify the local law enforcement agency and the principal

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS (continued)

When informing the principal about the possession or seizure of a weapon or dangerous instrument, the employee shall report the name(s) of persons involved, witnesses, location, and the circumstances of any possession.

The principal shall report any possession of a weapon or dangerous instrument to the student's parents/guardians by telephone or in person, and shall follow this notification with a letter.

The employee shall retain possession of the instrument until the risk of its use as a weapon has dissipated or, upon the request of the student's parent/guardian, until the parent/guardian appears and personally takes possession. (Education Code 49331, 49332)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3515.3 - District/Police Security Department)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)