



Book	BHASD Policies
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1
Status	Active
Adopted	June 28, 2004
Last Revised	February 3, 2020
Prior Revised Dates	September, 14 2015

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Definitions

Weapon should include, but not be limited to, loaded or unloaded firearm (including any pellet guns, B.B. guns and look-alike firearms); a knife, metal knuckles or artificial knuckles or any kind, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, straight razor, explosives, firecrackers, noxious, irritating or poisonous gases, poisons, slingshot, and any other tool, instrument, implement or chemical capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.[\[7\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials and the district's emergency preparedness plan.

Guidelines

Any professional staff member or school employee who suspects or ascertains that a student is in possession of a weapon as defined in this policy shall immediately inform the building principal. The building principal will assess the severity of the offense and will conduct a complete investigation. Upon confiscation of a weapon, the principal must immediately notify and/or summon the Superintendent and the local police.

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies. [\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.

The Superintendent may authorize other persons to possess weapons in school buildings. The Superintendent may prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed before giving such authorization.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.

The following exceptions shall apply:

1. A weapon being used as part of a program approved by a school by an individual who is participating in the program.
2. A weapon that is unloaded and is possessed by an individual while traversing school property for the purpose of obtaining access to public or private lands used for lawful hunting, if the entry on school premises is authorized by school authorities.

Transfer Students

When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period. [\[2\]](#)

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1301-A](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1317.2](#)

3. Pol. 218

4. Pol. 233

[5. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)

6. Pol. 113.1

[7. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A](#)

[8. 24 P.S. 1303-A](#)

[9. 18 U.S.C. 921](#)

[10. 18 U.S.C. 922](#)

[22 PA Code 403.1](#)

[20 U.S.C. 7151](#)

[20 U.S.C. 7114](#)

[34 CFR Part 300](#)

