

Book	POLICY MANUAL
Section	400 STUDENTS
Title	Student Use and Possession of Weapons
Code	443.6
Status	Active
Adopted	April 24, 2023
Last Reviewed	July 8, 2024

No District student shall possess or use any destructive device, firearm or other dangerous weapon (as defined in the administrative rule implementing this policy) of any kind at any time:

- in any school or other building/facility owned, occupied or controlled by the District;
- on the grounds of a school or on other premises owned, occupied or controlled by the District (including recreation areas and athletic fields);
- while under the supervision of a school district authority, regardless of the student's location;
- in any District-owned vehicle or on any form of District-provided transportation; and/or,
- while participating in or attending any District-sponsored program or activity.

The possession and use of facsimile firearms and/or facsimile dangerous weapons is also prohibited.

The only exception to this policy is the possession and use of a facsimile firearm/weapon in a school-approved activity as authorized by the building principal or designee. This policy is not intended to prohibit the possession or use of potentially dangerous objects not designed primarily as weapons, provided that such objects have been issued or expressly authorized by the District, and provided that such objects are possessed and used exclusively for their limited and authorized purpose.

Law enforcement officers shall be contacted to help deal with a weapons situation which presents an immediate threat to safety. If the situation does not allow an opportunity to contact law enforcement officials immediately, school staff shall attempt to diffuse and control the situation in the safest manner possible until law enforcement officials can be summoned. In addition to reporting actual weapons situations to law enforcement officers as required by this policy, school employees and other mandated reporters of threats of school violence are also required to report any serious and imminent threat of violence in or targeted at a school that they become aware of to a law enforcement agency in accordance with state law requirements and Board policy. Appropriate information and training shall be provided to staff in dealing with weapons situations in accordance with the school safety plan.

Students violating this policy shall be referred to law enforcement officials and be subject to school disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion, in accordance with established procedures. Referral to law enforcement is not required for violations involving solely a facsimile firearm/weapon where there was no attempt to threaten, harass, intimidate or harm another person.

Students shall be informed of this policy annually through the student handbook and through any other means determined appropriate by the administration.

Additional Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for taking reasonable steps, in advance, to ensure that any item in their possession or control is not prohibited by this policy. Students who have questions about whether an item is covered by this policy, or whether a particular exception identified in this policy may apply in a specific context should contact their building principal or the Superintendent.

A student who finds him/herself inadvertently in possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall immediately surrender the weapon to a school staff member. An investigation will occur into the circumstances surrounding the possession and surrender of the weapon, and a decision will be made whether to discipline the student after a consultation between the principal and the Director of Student Services or the Superintendent. If the weapon is surrendered before the student is discovered to be in possession of the weapon and before any incident or disturbance occurs involving the weapon, such factors shall weigh in favor of the student.

If any student has reason to believe that any student, District employee, volunteer, visitor or other person possesses, or has used or stored a weapon in violation of this policy or any other District policy, the student should immediately report that belief to a teacher, building principal or other responsible adult. Any act of retaliation against a student who, in good faith, reports a possible violation of this policy or participates in the investigation of such a report is prohibited.

Sanctions for Violations

Any time school officials determine that a student has possessed or used any firearm, bomb, explosive or similar destructive device, or any other weapon while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority, an administrator shall refer the student and the incident to law enforcement. In situations involving a student's possession of a firearm, bomb, explosive or similar destructive device, an administrator shall also suspend the student and commence expulsion proceedings, and the Board shall expel the student from school for at least one year. The Board may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that any such modification is documented in writing. In situations involving other weapons violations under this policy, the student shall be referred for potential disciplinary action, up to and including possible expulsion from school. Where applicable, the District may also impose sanctions under the school activity/athletic code.

Legal

[Section 118.07 \[school safety plans\]](#)

[Section 118.31 \[use of reasonable force to obtain weapon\]](#)

[Section 120.13\(1\)\(bm\) \[state law suspension mandate for possession of a firearm\]](#)

[Section 120.13\(1\)\(c\)2m \[state law expulsion mandate for possession of a firearm\]](#)

[Section 120.13\(1\)\(g\) \[board authority to modify expulsion mandate on case-by-case basis\]](#)

[Section 120.13\(38\) \[board authority to permit hunting in the school forest\]](#)

[Section 175.32 \[mandatory reporting of threats of school violence\]](#)

[Section 941.295\(1c\)\(a\) \[definition of "electric weapon"\]](#)

[Section 943.13 \[criminal trespass law, includes provisions related to carrying firearms\]](#)

[Section 948.60 \[possession of a dangerous weapon under 18 years of age\]](#)

[Section 948.605 \[gun-free schools zones\]](#)

[Section 948.61 \[dangerous weapons other than firearms on school premises\]](#)