

ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: June 21, 2007

REVISED:

218.1. WEAPONS	
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>2. Definitions SC 1317.2 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 907, 908, 912</p>	<p>Weapon shall mean anything readily capable of lethal use and possessed under circumstances not manifestly appropriate for lawful uses which it may have. The term includes but is not limited to a firearm which is not loaded or lacks a clip or other component to render it immediately operable, and components which can readily be assembled into a weapon. The term weapon, as defined in this policy, shall also include, but not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle, bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, firearm specially made or specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, any propellants such as pepper spray and mace, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury including any look-alike of the above mentioned items.</p> <p>Any instrument or tool while being used by a student participating in an educational/vocational process or program approved by a school, will not be defined as a weapon as long as that instrument or tool is being used for its educationally/vocationally defined purpose.</p> <p>Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in item(s) owned by 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.</p>
<p>3. Authority SC 1317.2</p>	<p>The Board prohibits students from possessing, transmitting, handling, using and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, in school vehicles, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.</p>

<p>SC 1317.2 Pol. 233</p>	<p>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 requirements on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>In the case of a student with disabilities, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with federal and state law regarding students with disabilities.</p> <p>This policy shall be implemented through the cooperative efforts of the Superintendent and Superintendent's Team, faculty and staff, parents/guardians, students, the Allentown Police Department, and the school district's community.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p>Any person discovering a student's possession, transmission, handling or use of a weapon, facsimile or look-alike, or a threat to use a weapon shall immediately notify the principal or designee of the apparent violation. A school administrator shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the student's parent/guardian, local law enforcement officials, the Director of Community and Student Services, the Superintendent of Schools and the immediate supervisor.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p>The Superintendent shall report any violations of this policy and acts of violence to the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the "Annual Report on School Violence and Weapons Possession."</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.</p> <p>Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.</p> <p><u>Transfer Students</u></p>
<p><u>SC 1317.2</u></p>	<p>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.</p>

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1303-A, 1317.2

Gun-Free Schools Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7151

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114

Gun Control Act – 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 403.1

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