

## Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises

Unless authorized by this policy, it is a violation of district policy for any person to knowingly carry a firearm or dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation, areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities, or areas of facilities being used for official meetings of the school board. The term "school premises", includes property, or portions(s) of property, owned, rented or leased by the District when the property, or portions(s) of property, is being used exclusively for school district activities.

The District superintendent is directed to see that all school facilities post "Gun-Free Zone" signs, and that all violations of this policy and [RCW 9.41.280](#) are reported annually to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The District superintendent will post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possessing dangerous weapons at each facility being used for official meetings of the board.

It is the policy of this District that the presence of firearms and other dangerous weapons in the workplace or educational environment is to be minimized as much as possible. As such, the following activities are prohibited by this policy regardless of whether such possession would violate state law, and regardless of whether the weapon is secured in a vehicle or possessed by a person with a concealed weapons permit:

1. No District employee may bring any firearm or dangerous weapon onto any District property without prior authorization of the superintendent.
2. No person or entity renting, leasing, or otherwise being granted the right to temporary use of District property may possess, or allow its guests to possess, firearms or dangerous weapons on District premises.

The term "dangerous weapons" includes any object that is used in a manner to intimidate, threaten, or injure another person and is capable of easily and readily producing such injury.

### Reporting Dangerous Weapons

#### Students

If District staff believe that a student has violated this policy, an appropriate school authority will promptly notify the student's parents or guardians and the appropriate law enforcement agency of known or suspected violations of this policy.

Students who have possessed a firearm on any school premises, school-provided transportation, school-sponsored activities at any facility or in areas of facilities while being used for official school board meetings shall be expelled for not less than one year pursuant to RCW 28A.600.420. The superintendent may modify the one-year expulsion for a firearm on a case-by-case basis. Further, the district may also suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice (as defined under RCW 9A.04.110) and displays a device that appears to be a firearm.

All expulsion and/or suspension and all other discipline of students who violate this policy will be subject to District Policy 3241 – Student Discipline.

### **Staff**

If a District employee believes that another District employee has violated this policy, the employee will report his or her concerns to an appropriate school or District authority for further inquiry. Any disciplinary action of an employee who willfully violates this policy will be subject to District Policy 5281 – Disciplinary Action and Discharge.

### **Exceptions**

The following persons may carry firearms into school buildings, as necessary, although students engaged in these activities are restricted to the possession of rifles on school premises:

- A. Persons engaged in military, law enforcement, or school district security activities;
- B. Persons involved in an authorized convention, showing, demonstration, lecture or firearm safety course authorized by the Superintendent;
- C. Persons competing in firearm or air gun competitions authorized by the Superintendent; and
- D. Any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer.

The following persons who are over eighteen years of age, not employed by the District, and not enrolled as students may have firearms in their possession on school property outside of school buildings only under the following limited circumstances:

- A. Persons who have a concealed weapons permit issued pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 and are (1) picking up or dropping off students at school or (2) attending official meetings of the school board held off District owned or leased property; and
- B. Persons conducting legitimate business at the school and in lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon if the weapon is secured within an attended vehicle, is unloaded and secured in a vehicle, or is concealed from view in a locked, unattended vehicle. Under RCW 9.41.050, no one may lawfully possess a loaded handgun in a vehicle unless the person has a valid concealed pistol permit.
- C. A school, if authorized by the Board of Directors, may store firearm(s) and ammunition in a locked gun safe to be accessible only by School Resource Officers for use in an emergency. The Superintendent must approve the location of the gun safe and the type and amount of firearms and ammunition stored at the school. Any time a School Resource Officer accesses the gun safe, the Superintendent shall be notified within a reasonable time after the access occurred, but no later than the next school business day. The Board of Directors has authority to revoke the authorization to store firearms and ammunition at a school at any time. Once the authorization is revoked, the School Resource Officers shall immediately remove the firearms and ammunition from the school.

Persons may bring dangerous weapons, other than firearms, onto school premises if the weapons are lawfully within the person's possession and are to be used in a school-authorized activity or class such as a martial arts class.

### **Personal Protection Spray**

Persons over eighteen years of age, and persons between fourteen and eighteen years of age with written parental or guardian permission, may possess personal protection spray devices on school property. No one under eighteen years of age may deliver such devices. No one eighteen years or

older may deliver a spray device to anyone under fourteen, or to anyone between fourteen and eighteen who does not have parental permission.

Personal protection spray devices may not be used other than in self-defense as defined by state law. Possession, transmission, or use of personal protection spray devices under any other circumstances is a violation of district policy.

Cross References:                   3241 - Student Discipline  
  4260 - Use of School Facilities  
  6112 - Rental or Lease of District Real Property  
  5281 - Disciplinary Action and Discharge

Legal References:                   RCW 9A.16.020 Use of force - when lawful  
  RCW 9.41.250 Dangerous weapons—Penalty  
  RCW 9.41.280 Dangerous weapons on  
  facilities—Penalty — Exceptions  
  RCW 9.91.160 Personal protection spray devices  
  RCW 9.94A.825 Deadly weapon special  
  verdict--definition  
  RCW 28A.600.420 Firearms on school premises,  
  transportation, or facilities — Penalty —  
  Exemptions

Legal References:                   RCW 9A.16.020 Use of force - when lawful

Management Resources:                   2023 - April Issue  
  2022 - June June  
  2016 - July Issue  
  Policy News, August 2006 Weapons on School  
  Premises  
  Policy News, August 1998 State Encourages  
  Modification of Weapons Policy  
  Policy News, October 1997 Legislature also  
  addresses “look-alike” firearms

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