

MIDDLETOWN
 AREA
 SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

ADOPTED: October 18, 1993

REVISED: January 19, 1998

218.2. POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	
1. Purpose	The Board of Education believes a school environment that is safe and where students are able to pursue their course of study without fearing for their safety and are free from the threat of physical harm is essential to education. Possession of a weapon in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.
2. Authority SC 1317.2	It shall be a violation of this policy and the code of student conduct for any student to bring onto or be in possession of a weapon or a replica of a weapon, as hereinafter defined, on any school property, in the buildings of or on the grounds of the school district, at any school sponsored or sanctioned function or activity, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any school building or property, school sponsored function or activity.
3. Definition	<p>As used herein, the term weapon shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.</p> <p>The term possession shall mean a student who is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the person of the student. 2. In the student's locker. 3. In an automobile owned by or under the control of the student. 4. Otherwise under the student's control while the student is on school property or on property being used by the school or while the student is attending any school function, activity or event whether said function, activity or event is being held on or away from school property, or while the student is on his/her way to or from school.

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Any professional staff member or school employee who knows or suspects that any person is in violation of this policy shall immediately notify the building principal or other person in charge of the premises, who shall immediately segregate the offender from the general school population and notify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The local law enforcement officials.2. The Superintendent of Schools.3. The student's parents. <p>The building principal or other person in charge may ask the student to produce the weapon and may also request permission to conduct a search for the weapon. If the student objects to or refuses to permit such search, the student shall be detained until police assistance is secured.</p> <p>The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make an investigation of the incident in cooperation with appropriate law enforcement agencies which shall include, as a minimum, interviewing and securing written statements from witnesses, securing photographs of the "weapon" or otherwise preparing a complete written description of the weapon, and preparing an anecdotal record of the incident and actions in response thereto.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon on school grounds to the Department of Education. Acts of violence or possession of a weapon on school property in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the designated form twice per year, as required.</p> <p>The Superintendent or a designee shall take the necessary actions 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>
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