

No. 5480
SECTION: STUDENTS
TITLE: WEAPONS

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OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

It shall be the policy of the Oxford Area School District that no weapon shall be found on the person of a student, under a student's control, on school property or at any school activity either held on school property or any school activity held away from school property. For purposes of this policy the definition of a 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. The term weapon shall also include items which are replicas or look-alike weapons which by virtue of appearance or the manner in which displayed would cause reasonable apprehension of a threat to a safe school environment.

No student shall interfere with the normal conduct of activities on school premises by exhibiting, using or threatening the use of any weapon, dangerous instrument or item resembling a weapon or dangerous instrument. Any student violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school. When appropriate, criminal charges will be filed with the police in cases where the possession and/or concealment of a dangerous weapon is consistent with the prohibitions as defined in civil law.

Unless otherwise stipulated, expulsion from school for violation of this policy shall be for a period of time not less than one (1) year.

In those cases where the violation of this policy involves a student with a defined disability, enforcement of this policy shall be consistent with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations or guidelines.

The Superintendent of Schools shall establish procedures and guidelines for the implementation and enforcement of this policy. These procedures and guidelines shall include provisions for implementation which take into consideration the age and grade level of the student and those cases of violations of this policy involving students with disabilities.

The Superintendent shall be allowed to modify any disciplinary requirement for violation of this policy by a student including expulsion on a case-by-case basis in those instances where the possession of a weapon in school requires expulsion from school for a period of time consistent with state or federal law.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

WEAPONS

The following guidelines and procedures are established for the purpose of implementing school district policy 5480 regarding the possession and/or use of weapons.

Guidelines:

- A. Each school building shall establish rules and disciplinary actions to address the issue of possession and/or use of weapons in school. These rules shall establish an appropriate level of discipline resulting from incidents involving weapons given the nature of the activity and the age of the students involved. All students must be made aware, however, that violations of state or federal laws addressing weapons in schools will result in an expulsion from school for the period of time as specified in the law.
- B. All rules, regulations and associated disciplinary actions shall be included in the school disciplinary code and communicated to students and parents through inclusion in the student/parent handbook.
- C. Strict guidelines shall be established and communicated to parents and students with regard to weapons which might be brought to school for educational purposes. These guidelines must address the following:
 - 1. Approval by the school principal must be obtained at least one week in advance of the activity.
 - 2. Written approval and/or request from the parent and endorsement by the classroom teacher must be received.
 - 3. Weapons will not be transported on school district vehicles for any reason.
 - 4. Weapons brought to school for purposes of demonstration or discussion will be kept in the office of the principal at all times except when in use for the purpose of having the weapon in school.
 - 5. Rifles, guns or explosive devices must not contain any powder, explosive, shell or cartridge which might be detonated or fired.
 - 6. Weapons brought to school for display or discussion are to be handled in a responsible manner. Conduct demonstrating careless, reckless, threatening or irresponsible behavior may result in disciplinary action.
- D. School building guidelines shall establish that toy weapons are inappropriate in schools and their presence is unacceptable.
- E. Enforcement of rules and disciplinary actions for violations of the weapons policy involving a student with a disability shall be consistent with all state and federal regulations which might apply.

Any instance involving a weapon in school is a serious matter and the response to such situations must be appropriate to the nature of the instance and potential danger. The following procedures shall be followed in those instances where a student is in possession of a weapon.

- A. At the earliest notification of the presence of a weapon in school, the school principal or other responsible individual who is in a position to take charge of the situation shall act to minimize the potential for harm to any individual. It is not expected that any individual place themselves in a position of causing harm to themselves in an effort to deal with the situation.

- B. At the instance when the exact nature of the activity is determined, appropriate action shall commence to resolve the situation. This may include actions such as requesting assistance from the police, evacuation of portions or all of the building or securing the weapon from the student. A prudent course of action should be taken to minimize the potential for harm to anyone.
- C. Dependent upon the seriousness of the situation, the interventions taken and the degree and nature of the discipline to be imposed, a full report on the incident shall be given to the Superintendent as soon as possible.
- D. Release of information to the press, recommendations for discipline and other related issues which may arise out of a serious violation of the weapons policy shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis and determined by the Superintendent in consultation with the school principal.
- E. Serious violations of the weapons policy shall result in a recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Directors for possible expulsion from school.
- F. All actions taken in the conduct of an investigation or in the final resolution of an incident involving a weapon shall follow all appropriate due process guidelines.