

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 15, 2007

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TURKEYFOOT VALLEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

218.1 WEAPONS	
1. Purpose	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.
2. Definitions	<p>Weapon – the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. [1] [2]</p> <p>Possessing – a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of 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>
3. Authority	<p>The Board prohibits students from possessing and/or bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity. [2] [3]</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 requirement on a case-by-case basis. [2] [4] [5]</p> <p>In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all necessary steps to comply with state and federal laws and regulations. [2][4][6][7][8][9][10][11]</p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility	The Superintendent or designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by the policy to the student’s parents/guardians and to local law enforcement officials.

<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.</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. [11] [12] [13]</p> <p>When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[14][15]</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[2][11][12][16][17][18]</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[11][17][19]</p> <p>Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year. [11] [16]</p> <p>Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.</p> <p>An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed. [2]</p> <p>Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.</p> <p>In accordance with federal law, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. [20] [21]</p>
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Transfer Students

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. [2] [22]

References:

1. 24 P.S. 1301-A
2. 24 P.S. 1317.2
3. Pol. 218
4. Pol. 113.1
5. Pol. 233
6. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
7. 22 PA Code 10.23
8. Pol. 103.1
9. Pol. 113.2
10. Pol. 113.3
11. Pol. 805.1
12. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
13. Pol. 805
14. 24 P.S. 1302-E
15. Pol. 236.1
16. 24 P.S. 1303-A
17. 22 PA Code 10.2
18. 22 PA Code 10.21
19. 22 PA Code 10.25
20. 18 U.S.C. 921
21. 18 U.S.C. 922
22. Pol. 200
- 18 Pa. C.S.A. 912
- 20 U.S.C. 7114
- 20 U.S.C. 7961
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 34 CFR Part 300