

STUDENTS

Policy 2620 **(Regulation 2620)**

Discipline

Firearms and Weapons in School

The District recognizes firearm and weapon possession as a potential threat to the health, safety and security of students, employees, and other persons. The District will not tolerate the presence of firearms or weapons on the premises of our schools. This prohibition includes possession of firearms and weapons on school playgrounds, school parking lots, school buses, and at school activities, whether on or off school property. The District complies with the provisions of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 and other applicable federal and state law.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the District from permitting a Civil War re-enactor to bring a Civil War era weapon to school for educational purposes so long as the weapon is not loaded.

Students who violate this policy will be suspended for no less than one (1) year and are subject to permanent expulsion. However, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board a modification of the suspension on a case-by-case basis. Students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are entitled to the protections of those laws.

This policy will be annually submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education together with a report of disciplinary action taken for possession of a "firearm" or "weapon" as defined in Regulation 2620.

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Definition of Firearm

The term *firearm* includes, but is not limited to, such items as:

1. Any item which is a loaded or unloaded weapon, weapon frame, or weapon barrel and which is designed to, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by action of an explosive, or
2. Any item which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has a barrel with a bore of at least one-half inch in diameter, or
3. Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, such as: bombs; grenades; rockets with a propellant charge of greater than four ounces; and other similar devices as recognized under federal law, or
4. Any combination of parts either designed to or intended for use in converting any device into a device as described in paragraphs above.

Definition of Weapons

The term *weapon* shall mean a "firearm" as defined above, and shall also include the items listed below, which are defined as "weapons" in section 571.010, RSMo.

1. Blackjack
2. Concealable firearm
3. Explosive weapon
4. Firearm
5. Firearm silencer
6. Gas gun
7. Knife
8. Machine gun
9. Knuckles
10. Projectile weapon
11. Rifle
12. Shotgun
13. Spring gun
14. Switchblade knife

Other weapons:

1. Mace spray
2. Any knife, regardless of blade length (optional)
3. Items customarily used, or which can be used, to inflict injury upon another person or property.

Students Who Bring Firearms or Weapons to School

The District will take the following action upon determining that a student has brought a firearm or weapon to school:

1. The District will refer the student to the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system, and
2. The District will suspend the student from school for a period of not less than one year (365 days) from the date of the infraction, and may, at its discretion, expel the student from school permanently. This suspension provision may be modified on a case-by-case basis upon recommendation of the District Superintendent if the Superintendent determines that circumstances justify such a modification.
3. The District may, at its discretion, provide a student suspended under this Regulation with educational services in an alternative setting.

Applicability of Regulation to Students with Disabilities

If the student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act carries or possesses a weapon, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2), to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the District's authority, school administrators may remove that student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability. If a school administrator removes a student with an IDEA disability to an interim alternative educational placement, the District must convene the student's multidisciplinary and/or IEP team to conduct a manifestation determination within the statutory time frame and the student's IEP team must determine the interim alternative educational placement and the services that the student will be provided in order to receive a free appropriate public education and access to the general curriculum.