

Prohibition of WeaponsWeapons at School

The district is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff when they are at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity. The district's commitment includes the prohibition against any weapons or other objects/substances which may pose a threat to the health and safety of other students, staff members, or visitors, or could be used to disrupt the educational process.

Gun-Free Schools

A student who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers a firearm, or any object that can reasonably be considered to be or look like a firearm, shall be expelled for at least one calendar year. The Board, however, may modify the expulsion period on a case-by-case basis. The building administrator shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of any student who brings a firearm to school.

If a student violating this policy has a disability, either under the IDEA or Section 504, a determination must be made whether the student's conduct is related to the disability. If the violation of the policy is due to a disability recognized by the IDEA or Section 504, lawful procedures for changes in placement must be followed.

Any student subject to an expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board, in accordance with Idaho Code and Board policy.

Possession of a Weapon on School Property – Misdemeanor

No person shall possess a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon while on school property or in those portions of any building, stadium, or other structure on school grounds which, at the time of the violation, are being used for an activity sponsored by or through a school in this State or while riding school provided transportation. This also applies to students of schools while attending or participating in any school sponsored activity, program, or event regardless of location.

The Board may grant persons and entities advance permission to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building. All persons who wish to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building shall present this request to the Board in a regular meeting. It is solely within the Board's discretion whether to allow a person to possess carry or store a weapon in a school building.

This section of this policy does not apply to:

1. Law enforcement personnel;

2. Any adult over 18 years of age and not enrolled in a public or private elementary or secondary school who has lawful possession of a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon, secured and locked in their vehicle in an unobtrusive, nonthreatening manner;

3. A person who lawfully possesses a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon in a private vehicle while delivering minor children, students, or school employees to and from school or a school activity; or

4. A person or an employee of the school or District who is authorized to carry a firearm with the permission of the Board of Trustees.

Prohibitions

Students attending district schools are prohibited from:

1. Possessing or carrying objects/substances which are manufactured, used, or intended for use as a weapon, or facsimiles thereof, at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity without prior permission of school officials;
2. Possessing, carrying, using, and/or threatening to use, any normally non-dangerous object or substance with the intent or result of causing harm to another individual at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity;
3. Knowingly assisting another student(s) to possess, carry, or use a weapon at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.

Definitions

“Possess” is defined as bringing an object, or causing it to be brought, onto the property of a school, or onto a vehicle being used for school-provided transportation, or exercising dominion and control over an object located anywhere on such property or vehicle. A student will be determined to possess a weapon when the item is found to be in any of the following locations:

1. On a student’s person;
2. In the student’s personal property, including, but not limited to, the student’s clothing, backpack, purse, or any other item the student transports or carries and/or causes to be transported or carried to school;
3. A vehicle parked in the school parking lot which the student drives and/or is transported in;
4. The student’s locker; or
5. Any other school-related or school-sponsored event, regardless of location.

As used in this section of this policy only:

1. "Deadly or dangerous weapon" means any weapon as defined in United States Code. This term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length. and
2. "Firearm" means any firearm as defined in United States Code.

~~“Deadly or dangerous weapon” means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930. “Weapon” additionally includes a knife with a blade of any length.~~

~~“Firearm” shall mean any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffle or firearm silencer; any destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, or rocket, missile, mine, or similar device, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921, and air rifles or other weapons that propel a projectile with air, or pellet guns, or paint ball guns. Antique firearms are specifically excluded.~~

Investigation

The superintendent or designee will immediately investigate any allegation that a student is in violation of this policy. If determined necessary by the superintendent or designee, law enforcement may be requested to conduct the investigation. Any item identified as a weapon may be confiscated by the superintendent or designee. Students reasonably believed to be in possession of these items may be suspended from school until a thorough investigation is completed.

Disciplinary Actions

Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, expulsion, suspension, or other appropriate penalties. The board may, at its discretion, expel a student for the possession and/or use of a weapon, regardless of whether the item at issue falls within the definition of “weapon” under the Gun-Free Schools Act. Disciplinary action will be taken after reviewing all factors, including, but not limited to, the mandates of federal and state law; the student’s actions; the risk of harm to the students, district personnel, and patrons; the student’s academic standing; the likelihood of recurring violation; and the student’s prior conduct.

Expulsion Mandated by Federal Law

The board of trustees shall expel a student when the student’s actions violate federal law, as set forth in the Gun-Free Schools Act and Idaho law, regarding the prohibition of weapons.

The expulsion will be for a period of not less than one (1) year (twelve (12) calendar months). The board may modify the expulsion order on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual circumstances and the severity of the incident.

Referral to Law Enforcement

The district will refer any student who brings onto school property a weapon or firearm, as defined under the Gun-Free Schools Act or Idaho law, to law enforcement.

The board may, at its discretion, refer other students who violate this policy to law enforcement.

Students with Disabilities

Disciplining students with disabilities, as defined by Public Law 94-142 and subsequent amendments, and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, under this policy will follow federal guidelines.

Denial of Enrollment

This district will not admit a student who has been expelled from another school district for violation of a statute, regulation, or policy which prohibits weapons until the student is eligible to return to his or her home school district. If a student wishes to challenge that decision, he or she is entitled to a due process hearing pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-205.

Note: The district has the right to determine what items constitute a weapon. The definitions of “deadly or dangerous weapon” and “firearm” are the definitions referenced in Idaho Code § 18-3302D, which is the state statute governing carrying weapons or firearms on school property. Districts may add other items to its definition of “weapon” to address local concerns.

Expulsion is currently only mandated (to be modified on a case-by-case basis) in those instances where a weapon, as defined by the Gun-Free Schools Act, is involved. If the board modifies the expulsion in a specific instance, it has the right to impose alternative disciplinary measures.

Legal References

18 USC § 921

18 USC § 930

20 USC § 7961

29 USC § 701, et seq.

IC § 18-3302D

IC § 18-3302I

IC § 33-1224

IC § 33-205

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IDAPA 08.02.03.160.01.a

Description

Firearms - Definitions

Possession of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons
in Federal Facilities

Gun-Free Requirements

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Possessing Weapons or Firearms on School
Property

Threatening Violence on School Grounds

Powers and Duties of Teachers

Denial of School Attendance

Special Education

Safe Environment and Discipline

Legal Reference:

~~Idaho Code Sections 33-205, 18-3302D, 18 USC 921, 18 USC 930
Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 4141 (2001)~~

Policy History:

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Adoption:

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