

Book Policy Manual

Section Policies for Board Approval - Vol. 36, No. 2

Title Copy of po1617 WEAPONS

Code po1617

Status

Adopted February 18, 2020

1617 - **WEAPONS**

~~The~~ Except for a person who legally may possess a firearm and has been authorized by the School Board to carry a firearm in or on School Corporation property, the Board prohibits administrators from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Corporation for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Corporation including, but not limited to, property leased, owned or contracted for by the Corporation, a school-sponsored event, or in a Corporation vehicle; provided, however, that an administrator is not prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition that is locked in the trunk of the administrator's vehicle, kept in the glove compartment of the administrator's locked vehicle, or stored out of plain sight in the administrator's locked vehicle.

Generally, the possession of a firearm in or on school property, in or on property that is being used by a school for a school function, or on a school bus is a felony (I.C. 35-47-9-2) and is prohibited by Board policy. However, State law permits a person who may legally may possess a firearm to maintain that firearm if it is locked in the person's trunk, kept in the glove compartment of the person's locked vehicle, or stored out of plain sight in the person's locked vehicle. This exception does not apply to students unless it is a high school student who is a member of a shooting sports team and the principal has approved the student keeping the firearm concealed in the student's motor vehicle on days the student is competing or practicing as a member of a shooting sports team. This exception also does not apply to former students if the person is no longer enrolled in school due to a disciplinary action within the previous twenty-four (24) months.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, intended to be used, or represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as or endangering the health or safety of persons. Weapons include, include but are not limited to, firearms, tasers, handguns, stun guns, guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, chemical weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and destructive devices (such as bombs, incendiary devices, grenadegrenades, Molotov cocktailcocktails, rocketrockets with a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, etc.). A "knife" is defined as "an instrument that: 1) consists of a sharp edgedged or sharp pointed blade capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds; and 2) is intended to be used as a weapon.weapon" (I.C. 35-47-5-2.5(a)).

The Superintendent will report an administrator who violates this policy to law enforcement officials. The administrator also will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for violation of this policy.

This prohibition does not apply to weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel, as well as a School Resource Officer or other school security personnel who is not a law enforcement officer, but who may legally may possess a firearm.

Exceptions to this policy include:

- A. items approved by a principal as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision, if used for the purpose of and in the manner approved; (~~Working~~working firearms and ammunition shall never be approved.);
- B. theatrical props used in appropriate settings;
- C. starter pistols used in appropriate school-related sporting events.

Staff members must report knowledge of dangerous weapons weapon's possession and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the principal. Failure to report such information may subject the staff member to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.