

BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Policy Manual
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Section: PUPILS
Title: WEAPONS
Date Adopted: June 19, 1995
Date Last Revised: March 17, 2014

218.1. WEAPONS

- .1 The Board recognizes that a school must provide a safe and secure environment in which learning can take place. The Board shall make provisions for this type of environment within school buildings, on school property, on school buses, or off the school grounds at any school activity, event, or function, before, during, or after school hours.
- .2 The definition of “weapon” includes: [a]ny bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches, firearm specially made or specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, or otherwise, any stun gun, stun baton, taser or other electronic or electric weapon or other implement for the infliction of serious bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose, knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, martial arts device, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, air rifle, BB gun, pellet gun, and pistol, sling shot, explosive device, chemical agent, and any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury, where the intent is to use such a tool, instrument, or implement as a weapon is present. Also included are “look-alikes” of the weapons listed above.
- .3 Students are prohibited from having weapons on school property.
 - .31 If a weapon is to be brought to school for a classroom activity, the activity must be pre-approved by the Principal. A parent or guardian must bring the weapon to the school office to be left with an administrator. The teacher must get the weapon from the office immediately before the classroom activity and return it to the office immediately after the activity. The parent or guardian must return at the end of the day to retrieve the weapon from the school office. At no time will a student be left in

possession of a weapon on school property. If the weapon is a firearm, there shall never be a time when both the firearm and ammunition are brought to school together.

- .32 Instances in which an instructor brings a firearm to school for a classroom activity must also be pre-approved by the Principal, and all precautions listed in .31 must be followed.
- .4 If a member of the school community has reason to believe that a student may be in possession of a weapon, the appropriate school authority will be notified for assistance. If appropriate, local law enforcement officials will also be notified. Once assistance has arrived, every attempt will be made to isolate the student and to gain possession of the weapon. If this cannot be done in a safe manner, the local law enforcement officials will assume control of the situation.
- .5 The Bloomsburg Area School District will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to weapons in the school.
- .6 If a student is found to have a weapon in school, the following procedures will be followed:
 - .61 If the Principal or school official suspects that the offense is a violation of criminal law, the appropriate law enforcement agencies will be notified.
 - .62 The respective Principal or school official will immediately notify the Superintendent of the incident.
 - .63 The parents/guardians will be notified.
 - .64 The student will be removed from the premises as soon as possible.
 - .65 If the weapon is a firearm, the prevailing state and federal regulations will be followed:
 - .651 The Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 states that, “as a condition of receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, local education agencies must have in effect a policy requiring the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year, of any student who brings a firearm to school, except that the local educational agencies’ chief administering officer may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.” Under this provision, a local education agency would be permitted to discipline students with disabilities in accordance with the requirements of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and thereby maintain eligibility for federal financial assistance.”

- .66 If the weapon is some object other than a firearm, an out-of-school suspension or expulsion is recommended.
- .67 Before the student is readmitted to school, a conference involving the parents and school officials will be held to determine if other consequences are necessary.
 - .671 As a condition for readmission to school, the following items may be considered:
 - a. recommendations for outside counseling
 - b. referral to the BASE team
 - c. referral to the school counselor
- .68 Any student discovering, without previous plan or knowledge, that he/she is in possession of a weapon as defined shall:
 - a. immediately report the weapon to a school official.
 - b. not be in jeopardy of the school discipline code unless it can be shown the student had knowledge of the weapon prior to his/her admitted discovery.