

**REVISED GUIDELINE, VOL. 26, NO. 2**

**WEAPONS**

The Board prohibits students, staff, and visitors 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 a staff member is not prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition that is locked in the trunk of the staff member's vehicle, kept in the glove compartment of the staff member's locked vehicle, or stored out of plain sight in the staff member'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 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 a 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, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons 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 (bomb, incendiary, grenade, Molotov cocktail, rocket, with a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, etc.). A "knife" is defined as "an instrument that: 1) consists of a sharp edge or sharp pointed blade capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds; and 2) is intended to be used as a weapon." I.C. 35-47-5-2.5(a)

Any student who has reason to believe that a person has or will violate this guideline shall report to the school principal or the supervisor of the activity immediately. The report should include as much detail as possible concerning the person(s) involved, the weapon, the location of the person(s), and how this information was obtained.

The Superintendent will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the property where the offense occurs. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

If authorized by the Board, exceptions will be permitted for:

- (x) 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 firearms and ammunition shall never be approved.)
- (x) theatrical props used in appropriate settings;
- (x) starter pistols used in appropriate school related sporting events.

No student is to confront the person possessing the weapon, but a staff member has the option of confronting the person if the staff member believes the risk of injury to self or others is minimal or if immediate action is necessary to prevent injury to any person.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **SCHOOL CORPORATION**

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A principal or activity supervisor receiving a report of weapons possession shall have the option of conducting a search for the weapon in accordance with AG 5771, Search and Seizure, or contacting the \_\_\_\_local\_\_\_\_\_  
**[law enforcement agency]** for assistance.

[x ] Any interaction with the person should have as its primary objective the safety and welfare of people in the area rather than the obtaining possession of the weapon.

I.C. 20-33-8-16  
I.C. 20-33-9-1 et seq.  
I.C. 35-47-5-2.5  
I.C. 35-47-9  
20 U.S.C. 7151

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