

WEAPONS

The Board believes weapons or other dangerous objects and look-a-likes in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons, dangerous objects and look-a-likes. Such items shall be taken from students and others who are in possession of or in control of them on District property or premises within the jurisdiction of the District or from students within the control of the District.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) of student(s) found in possession of or control of a weapon, dangerous object or a look-a-like, while on school property or premises shall be notified of the incident. Possession or confiscation of weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes will be reported to law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing firearms to school or knowingly possessing firearms at school will be expelled for not less than one year. The superintendent has the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for students on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, or otherwise defined by applicable law. Dangerous object is defined as an item capable of producing harm (inflicting death or injury) to oneself or others (e.g., knife, club, chains, razor-blade, dagger, stiletto, switchblade, mace, pepper spray, brass knuckles).

The following situations are exempt from this policy:

1. Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials or other individuals specifically authorized by the Board while on school property.
2. Persons with express permission of the building principal who display unloaded weapons, other dangerous objects, or look-alikes who are actively engaging in a school district approved firearms safety course or hunter education course.
3. Persons who carry unloaded rifles, dangerous objects or look-alikes with the express permission of school authorities while participating as a color guard at an event held on school property.
4. Persons with express permission of school authorities who carry rifles modified to fire only blank rounds while participating in a gun salute ceremony at an event held on school property such as flag retirement ceremonies, Veteran's Day or Memorial Day observance.
5. Air rifles issued by U.S. Army Cadet Command for use in approved Marksmanship Program are permitted in the JROTC storage area and Air Rifle Range.
6. The use of look-alike weapons/rifles during Drill Team practice (only if approval on file).
7. Authorized weapons possessed by club participants, used in school club shooting events, such as trap shooting.

Legal Ref.: 18 U.S.C. § 921
Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21B; 483A.27(11), 724
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

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