

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: October 11, 2004

REVISED: December 6, 2004

218.1. WEAPONS	
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.</p>
<p>2. Definitions SC 1317.2 (g)</p>	<p>Weapon - the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, metal knuckles, straight razor, explosive, noxious, irritating, or poisonous gas, poison, drug, replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or items fashioned with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents/guardians, and patrons.</p> <p>Any unauthorized loaded or unloaded firearm or dangerous weapon/instrument possessed on or about a person while on district property is subject to seizure or forfeiture.</p> <p>Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; under the student's control while s/he is on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school; or while the student is on his/her way to or from school.</p>
<p>3. Authority SC 1317.2</p>	<p>The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public conveyance providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2 Pol. 233</p>	<p>The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and/or require student(s) to undergo extensive individual counseling.</p>

<p>P.L. 91-230 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq</p>	<p>In the case of an exceptional student, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2 (e.1)</p>	<p>Whenever a student seeks enrollment in the schools of the Seneca Valley School District who has been expelled from another public or private school for an act or offense involving a weapon, such new entrant shall not be permitted to attend the public schools of the Seneca Valley School District during the remaining period of any such expulsion imposed by the other public or private school. In lieu of admittance, the student shall be provided alternative education services to be determined or approved by the Superintendent provided that such alternative assignment shall not exceed the period of expulsion.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Superintendent shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the student's parents/guardians and to local law enforcement officials.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2 (f) (2)</p>	<p>The Superintendent shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A (b)</p>	<p>Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>Students and staff shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.</p> <p>An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed. Equipment and supplies for district approved curriculum and extracurricular activities are exempt from this policy.</p> <p>Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.</p> <p><u>Procedures</u></p> <p>Any professional staff member or school employee who suspects or observes a student in violation of this weapons policy shall immediately inform the building principal who will conduct the complete investigation.</p>

<p>School Code 1303-A, 1317.2</p> <p>Public Law 91-230 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq</p> <p>18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922</p>	<p>Upon reasonable suspicion of possession of a weapon by a student, building administrators may conduct a reasonable search of a student and of his/her personal belongings (which may include garments, bookbags, purses and vehicles) and school lockers. In addition, the building administrators may request the assistance and/or intervention of the local police in conducting any investigation or search. Parents/ Guardians will be notified as soon as possible.</p> <p>The building principal will collaborate with the Superintendent to determine immediate disciplinary action, initiate expulsion proceedings and develop a public statement as well as determine the most effective means for informing school personnel. The building principal, with the assistance of the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, will coordinate the informal hearing procedure e.g. investigation, securing written signed statements, witness statements and anecdotal records substantiating the procedures followed and the charges of possession, transmitting and/or transporting a weapon, and the informative and notification requirements for a formal hearing for expulsion proceedings.</p>
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