

## **WEAPONS IN SCHOOL**

The Board of Directors determines that student possession, use, and/or threatened use of a weapon are detrimental to the welfare and safety of students and Centennial BOCES personnel.

### **Dangerous Weapons**

Using, possessing or threatening to use a dangerous weapon on Centennial BOCES property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by Centennial BOCES or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or Centennial BOCES-sponsored activity or event, and off Centennial BOCES property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any Centennial BOCES curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or Centennial BOCES is prohibited. An exception to this policy may be made for students participating in an authorized extracurricular activity or team involving the use of firearms.

As used in this policy, “dangerous weapon” means:

- a. A firearm
- b. Any pellet, BB gun or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air.
- c. A fixed blade knife with a blade that exceeds three inches in length
- d. A spring loaded knife or a pocket knife with a blade exceeding three and one-half inches in length.
- e. Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, that is used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury including, but not limited to, slingshot, bludgeon, nunchucks, brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind.

Students who use, possess or threaten to use a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension, and/or expulsion, in accordance with Board policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions.

In accordance with federal law, expulsion shall be mandatory for no less than one full calendar year for a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to or possessed a firearm at school in violation of this policy. The executive director or designee may modify the length of this federal requirement for expulsion on a case-by-case basis. Such modification shall be made in writing.

### **Firearm Facsimiles**

Carrying, using, actively displaying or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on Centennial BOCES property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by Centennial BOCES or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or Centennial BOCES-sponsored activity or event, and off Centennial BOCES property when such conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any Centennial BOCES curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or Centennial BOCES is prohibited. Students who violate this policy provision may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion, in accordance with Board policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions.

A student may seek prior authorization from the building principal to carry, bring, use or possess a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property for purposes of a school-related or non-school related activity. A student’s failure to obtain such prior authorization is a violation of this policy provision and may result in

disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion, in accordance with Board policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions. The principal's decision to deny or permit a student to carry, bring, use or possess a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property shall be final.

Centennial BOCES administrators shall consider violations of this policy provision on a case-by-case basis to determine whether suspension, expulsion or any other disciplinary action is appropriate based upon the individual facts and circumstances involved.

**Recordkeeping**

Centennial BOCES/schools shall maintain records which describe the circumstances involving expulsions of students who bring weapons to school including the name of the school, the number of students expelled and the types of weapons involved as required by law.

**Referral to Law Enforcement**

In accordance with applicable law, Centennial BOCES personnel shall refer any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school without authorization of the school or Centennial BOCES to law enforcement.

LEGAL REFS.:       18 U.S.C. §921 (a) (3) federal definition of "firearm"  
                          20 U.S.C. § 7151 Gun-Free Schools Act  
                          20 U.S.C. §7151 (h) requiring schools to have policies requiring referral to  
                          law enforcement  
                          C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2) (a)(I)(G) policy required as part of safe schools plan  
                          C.R.S. 22-33-102 (4) definition of dangerous weapon  
                          C.R.S. 22-33-106 (1) grounds for suspension, expulsion, denial of  
                          admission  
                          C.R.S. 22-33-106 (1)(f) must adopt policy regarding firearm facsimiles

CROSS REFS.:       JK-2, Discipline of Students with Disabilities  
                          JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students  
                          KFA, Public Conduct on Centennial BOCES Property

Revised: September 20, 2018  
Reviewed: CASB 2005  
Centennial BOCES