

**POLICY TITLE: Prohibition of  
Weapons**

**POLICY NO: 541**

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This district is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff when they are at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity. The district's commitment includes the prohibition against any weapons or other objects/substances which may pose a threat to the health and safety of other students, staff members, or visitors, or could be used to disrupt the educational process. It also includes the prohibition against willful threats of violence directed at schools, school buses, school activity venues, school staff and/or students regardless of the point of origin, and delivered by any means of communication.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

Students attending district schools are prohibited from:

1. Possessing or carrying objects/substances which are manufactured, used, or intended for use as a weapon, or facsimiles thereof, at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity without prior permission of school officials.
2. Possessing, carrying, using, and/or threatening to use, any normally non-dangerous object or substance with the intent or result of causing harm to another individual at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.
3. Knowingly assisting another student(s) to possess, carry, or use a weapon at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.
4. Threatening by word, electronic means or act to use a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon to do violence to any person on school grounds or to disrupt the normal operations of the school district's operations by making a threat of violence.
5. Knowingly possessing, altering or repairing a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon in the furtherance of carrying out a threat made by word, electronic means or act to do violence to any person on school grounds or to disrupt the normal operations of the school district.

## **DEFINITIONS**

"Possess" is defined as bringing an object, or causing it to be brought, onto the property of a school, or onto a vehicle being used for school-provided transportation, or exercising dominion and control over an object located anywhere on such property or vehicle. A student will be determined to possess a weapon when the item is found to be in any of the following locations:

1. On a student's person;

2. In the student's personal property, including, but not limited to, the student's clothing, backpack, purse, or any other item the student transports or carries and/or causes to be transported or carried to school;
3. A vehicle parked in the school parking lot which the student drives and/or is transported in;
4. The student's locker; or
5. Any other school-related or school-sponsored event, regardless of location.

“Deadly or dangerous weapon” means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930. “Weapon” additionally includes a knife with a blade of any length.

“Firearm” shall mean any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, or rocket, missile, mine, or similar device, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921, and air rifles or other weapons that propel a projectile with air, or pellet guns, or paint ball guns. Antique firearms are specifically excluded.

“On school grounds” means in or on property owned or operated by a school district, public charter school or private school.

## **INVESTIGATION**

The superintendent or designee will immediately investigate any allegation that a student is in violation of this policy. If determined necessary by the superintendent or designee, law enforcement may be requested to conduct the investigation. Any item identified as a weapon may be confiscated by the superintendent or designee. Students reasonably believed to be in possession of these items may be suspended from school until a thorough investigation is completed.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, expulsion, suspension, or other appropriate penalties. The board may, at its discretion, expel a student for the possession and/or use of a weapon, regardless of whether the item at issue falls within the definition of “weapon” under the Gun-Free Schools Act. Disciplinary action will be taken after reviewing all factors, including, but not limited to, the mandates of federal and state law; the student's actions; the risk of harm to the students,

district personnel, and patrons; the student's academic standing; the likelihood of recurring violation; and the student's prior conduct.

### **Expulsion Mandated by Federal Law**

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free Schools Act and Idaho Code §33-205, the board of trustees shall expel a student from school a student who has been found to possessed a firearm on school property in this state or any other state.

The expulsion, will be for a period of not less than one (1) year (twelve (12) calendar months). The board may modify the expulsion order on a case-by-case basis when the board determines that reasonable conditions apply and the student's presence is not detrimental to the health and safety of other students.

### **Referral to Law Enforcement**

The superintendent or designee will refer any student who possesses a firearm on school property in violation of state or federal law to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

The board may, at its discretion, refer other students who violate this policy to law enforcement.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Disciplining students with disabilities, as defined by Public Law 94-142 and subsequent amendments, and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, under this policy will follow federal guidelines.

## **DENIAL OF ENROLLMENT**

This district will not admit a student who has been expelled from another school district for violation of a statute, regulation, or policy which prohibits weapons until the student is eligible to return to his or her home school district. If a student wishes to challenge that decision, he or she is entitled to a due process hearing pursuant to Idaho Code §33-205.



**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code Sections

33-205 – Denial of School Attendance

18-3302D – Possessing Weapons or Firearms on School Property

18-3302I – Threatening Violence on School Grounds

18 USC §921

18 USC §930

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 4141 (2001)

**ADOPTED:** January 14, 1998

**AMENDED:** November 10, 1999, August 21, 2018, September 21, 2021

**ANNUAL REVIEW:** January 19, 2021, September 21, 2021

**Note:** The district has the right to determine what items constitute a weapon. The definitions of “deadly or dangerous weapon” and “firearm” are the definitions referenced in Idaho Code § 18-3302D, which is the state statute governing carrying weapons or firearms on school property. Districts may add other items to its definition of “weapon” to address local concerns.

Expulsion is currently only mandated (to be modified on a case-by-case basis) in those instances where a weapon, as defined by the Gun-Free Schools Act, is involved. If the board modifies the expulsion in a specific instance, it has the right to impose alternative disciplinary measures.