

**WEAPONS, BOMB THREATS  
TERRORIST THREATS AND  
CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY**

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The board will not tolerate the presence of weapons, bomb or terrorist threats, or actions that constitute a clear threat to the safety of students and employees. Any student violating this policy will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning. The superintendent is responsible for ensuring that consequences for prohibited behaviors are uniformly applied throughout the schools district. Except in cases when certain consequences for misbehavior are required by law, principals in the elementary grades are directed to use good judgment and reasonable discretion in determining the appropriate consequence for violation of board policies, school standards or school rules.

A. WEAPONS AND WEAPON-LIKE ITEMS

1. Prohibited Behavior

Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, using or transmitting, whether concealed or open, any weapon or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon. Weapons include all of the following:

- a. loaded or unloaded firearms, including guns, pistols or rifles;
- b. explosives, including dynamite cartridges, bombs, grenades or mines;
- c. knives, including pocket knives, bowie knives, switchblades, dirks or daggers;
- d. slingshots or slungshots;
- e. leaded canes;
- f. blackjacks;
- g. metal knuckles;
- h. BB guns;
- i. air rifles or air pistols;
- j. stun guns or other electric shock weapons, such as tasers;
- k. icepicks;
- l. razors or razor blades (except those designed and used solely for personal shaving);
- m. fireworks; and
- n. any sharp pointed or edged instruments except unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance.

Examples of other objects that may be considered weapons are box cutters and other types of utility blades and blowguns.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid any other student to possess, handle or use any of the weapons or weapon-like items listed above. A student who finds a weapon or weapon-like item, who witnesses another student or other person with such items, or who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to possess, handle or use such items must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

This section does not apply to pupils who are members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and who are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class duties, nor does this section apply to weapons used in school-approved instruction, teams or ceremonies.

2. Consequences

a. General Consequences

Violation of this section may result in short-term suspension up to 10 days, long-term suspension, 365 day suspension or expulsion. The procedures for suspension or expulsion are provided in policy 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion. A determination of the appropriate consequence for firearms/explosives violations will be made in accordance with the provisions of that policy and Subsection A.2.b, below. Placement in an alternative educational setting may be made instead of suspension in accordance with policy 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion.

b. Consequences for Firearms/Explosives Violations

As required by law, a student who brings or possesses a firearm or powerful explosive on school property or at a school-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity may be suspended for 365 days, unless the superintendent recommends and the board approves a modification. A firearm includes any gun, rifle, pistol or other weapon used for firing a projectile by means of an explosive charge. A firearm does not include a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle or air pistol. A powerful explosive includes a dynamite cartridge, a blasting cap, trinitrotoluene (TNT), nitroglycerin, a grenade or a mine.

A student who possesses a firearm or powerful explosive on school property also will be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system. For purposes of this subsection, "school property" includes any public school building, bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area or athletic field in the charge of the principal.

A student may not be suspended for 365 days for a weapons violation except in accordance with this subsection.

B. BOMB THREATS

1. Prohibited Behavior

Students are prohibited from making, aiding and/or abetting in making a bomb threat or perpetrating a bomb hoax against school system property by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting or burning is located on school property.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a bomb, make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

2. Consequences

As required by law, the board will suspend for 365 days any student who:

- a. makes a false report that there is a bomb or bomb-like device located on school property

or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity; or

- b. conceals, places or displays a device on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity with the intent to cause others to believe the device is a bomb.

Upon the superintendent's recommendation, the board may modify the suspension. A student who violates this section also will be referred to the criminal justice and/or juvenile justice system.

C. TERRORIST THREATS

1. Prohibited Behavior

Students are prohibited from making, aiding, conspiring and/or abetting in making a terrorist threat (threatening to commit a violent crime for the purpose of terrorizing another or of causing public panic) or perpetrating a terrorist hoax against school system property by making a false report that a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening injury to another person is located on school property.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person, make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

2. Consequences

As required by law, the board or superintendent will suspend for 365 days any student who:

- a. makes a false report that there is a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person located on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity;
- b. conceals, places, disseminates or displays a device, machine, instrument, artifact, letter, package material or substance on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity with the intent to cause others to believe the device is a substance or material capable of causing harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person;
- c. threatens to commit on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity an act of terror that is likely to cause death, with the intent to cause a significant disruption to the instructional day or school-sponsored activity or which actually causes such disruption;
- d. makes a false report that there is about to occur or is occurring on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity an act of terror that is likely to cause serious injury or death, with the intent to cause a significant disruption to the instructional day or school-sponsored activity or which actually causes such disruption; or
- e. conspires to commit any of the above-described acts.

Upon the superintendent's recommendation, the board may modify the suspension. A student who violates this section also will be referred to the criminal justice and/or juvenile justice system.

**D. CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES**

**1. Prohibited Behavior**

Students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees. Behavior constituting a clear threat to the safety of others includes, but is not limited to:

- a. theft or attempted theft by a student from another person by using or threatening to use a weapon;
- b. the intentional and malicious burning of any structure or personal property, including vehicles;
- c. an attack or threatened attack by a student against another person wherein the student uses a weapon or displays it in a manner found threatening to that person;
- d. an attack by a student on any employee, adult volunteer or another student that does not result in serious injury but that is intended to cause or reasonably could cause serious injury;
- e. an attack by a student upon another person whereby the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, such as broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injuries, laceration requiring stitches, loss of consciousness, or significant bruising or pain; or whereby the victim requires hospitalization or treatment at a hospital emergency room as a result of the attack;
- f. any intentional, highly reckless or negligent act that results in the death of another person;
- g. confining, restraining, or removing another person from one place to another, without the victim's consent or the consent of the victim's parents, for the purpose of committing a felony or for the purpose of holding the victim as a hostage, for ransom, or for use as a shield;
- h. the possession of a weapon on any school property, including in vehicles;
- i. taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of another person or persons, by force, threat of force, or violence, or by putting the victim in fear;
- j. any unauthorized and unwanted intentional touching, or attempted touching, of a person's sexual organs by another, including the breasts of the female and the genital areas of the male and female;
- k. the possession, manufacture, sale or delivery, or any attempted sale or delivery, of a

controlled substance in violation of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes;

- l. any behavior resulting in a felony conviction on a weapons, drug, assault or other charge that implicates the safety of other persons; and
- m. any other behavior that demonstrates a clear threat to the safety of others in the school environment.

2. Consequences

a. General Consequences

Violation of this section may result in long-term suspension, or expulsion. In addition, violations that otherwise constitute bomb or terrorist threats under Section B or C of this policy or firearms/explosives violations under Section A.2.b of this policy may result in a 365 day suspension. The procedures for long-term suspension or expulsion are provided in policy 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion. A determination of the appropriate consequence will be made in accordance with the provisions of that policy. Placement in an alternative educational setting may be made instead of suspension or expulsion in accordance with policy 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion.

b. Expulsion

Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the board may expel a student who is 14 years of age or older if the student's behavior indicates that his or her continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees. In determining whether expulsion is appropriate, the board will consider the culpability of the student, the dangerousness of the student and the harm caused by the student, in accordance with policy 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion.

The board also may expel a student who is subject to and in accordance with policy 4260, Student Sex Offenders.

Legal References: Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. 7151; G.S. 14-17, -18, -27.2 to -27.5, -32, -33, -34 to -34.2, -41, -60, -69.1, -69.2, -87, -87.1, -132, -132.2, -202.1, -208.18, -269.2, 277.5; ch. 90, art. 5; 115C-47, -207, -276(r), -288, -390, -391; State Board of Education Policy SS-A-002

Cross References: Student Sex Offenders (policy 4260), Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion (policy 4353)

Adopted: