



Policy JCDAE: Weapons

Status: DRAFT

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WEAPONS

No student, employee or visitor may possess a weapon in, on or about school buildings, grounds, athletic fields or any other property used for school-related purposes, except as permitted by law. No student may possess or carry any weapon within a vehicle brought onto school property. Employees and visitors may lawfully possess or carry a firearm within a vehicle brought onto school property; however, the firearm may not be brandished, exhibited or displayed in a careless, angry or threatening manner. No employee or visitor may possess or carry any other type of weapon within a vehicle brought onto school property.

No weapons, whether real or look-alike, shall be possessed on campus or at any other school-related event and shall not be used in any school sponsored or school sanctioned ceremony. This includes, but is not limited to, the theatrical performances and band demonstrations.

Possession is defined as having actual physical control over an item (e.g. on one's person) or constructive control, where the individual has the power or intent to control the item, even if it is not in his or her immediate physical custody (with or without the individual's knowledge of the item(s). This includes items found in a student's locker, backpack, vehicle, or other areas under the student's control. Students have the responsibility to inspect all clothing, backpacks, purses, and other personal belongings before bringing them onto school district property, including school buses, or to school-related events, to ensure these belongings do not contain any prohibited item(s). Students who operate automobiles on school district property or at school-related events have the responsibility to inspect their automobiles to ensure that their automobile is free of any prohibited item(s).

A. DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WEAPONS

Prohibited weapons include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Gun, rifle, pistol, other firearm
2. Dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or other explosive
3. BB gun, air rifle, air pistol
4. Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, switchblade, pocketknife or other knife
5. Slingshot
6. Lead cane, blackjack
7. Metallic or other artificial knuckles
8. Razors, razor blades
9. Any sharp-pointed or edged instrument (except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used only to prepare food or for instruction and maintenance of school property)
10. Any look-alike instrument which has the effect or appearance of a weapon (including utensils, imitation firearms or knives, etc.)

B. PERMITTED USES

The superintendent or principal, as appropriate and in his discretion, may give prior approval for weapons to be on or about campus under the following circumstances:

1. Law enforcement officers and other government officials may carry weapons onto school grounds as permitted by law;
2. Those used within the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program in conducting training when such training is a normal element of such programs; such programs may include training in the use of pneumatic guns. Such training shall occur only at a location or locations approved by the Superintendent;
3. MHSAA sanctioned or school board approved activities (ex. Archery or Shooting Sports);
4. Visitors who lawfully possess an enhanced carry permit may enter only in those areas permitted by law;

5. Replica firearms by a ceremonial color guard; and
6. Approved safety classes. This approval must be in writing and granted prior to the weapon being brought to school.

C. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Any student who violates this policy will be suspended and recommended for expulsion in accordance with Policy JCA.

Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy GAA.

Any visitor who violates this policy will be asked to leave school property immediately and further action, including but not limited to filing criminal charges, may be taken as necessary.

Any person violating this policy may be subject to criminal action and penalties as provided in Miss. Code Ann. 97-37-17.

D. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials in accordance with Policies JCBF and JCBF-P.

E. NOTICE

A copy of Miss. Code Ann. 97-37-17 shall be posted in public view at each school in the district.

NOTE: Please refer to MS Code 37-3-83 for information on how school districts may apply for grant funds under the "School Violence Prevention Grant Program."

LEGAL REF.: MS CODE Section 97-37-17

CROSS REF.: Policies JCBF-P Reporting of Unlawful or Violent Acts -- Procedure
