

JCDAE Possession of Weapons on School Property
(Formerly JICI Dangerous Weapons in Schools)

BOARD POLICY

1. The Board recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to District employees, students, visitors and guests and further creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of damage to properties of District employees, students, visitors and guests. Because of such dangers, the Board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms or weapons.
2. Students found to be in possession of pistols, firearms or weapons on school premises or at school functions will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials and will be subject to **discipline - up to and including** permanent expulsion from the Tupelo Public School District for a term of not less than one year - **in accordance with this policy**.
3. The Board endorses the Crimestoppers program and directs that Crimestoppers information be posted at each school site. **The name of any person who provides information that leads to the confiscation by the District or by a law enforcement agency of any illegal firearm on school property shall remain confidential. The superintendent is charged with the responsibility of insuring that procedures are in place to maintain such confidentiality.**
4. **The superintendent is authorized to establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy. The superintendent is authorized to purchase, install and utilize metal detecting devices to enforce this policy.**

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. For purposes of this policy and procedure, "possession" shall include, but is not limited to: on the student's person, in the student's car, in the student's locker, in the student's backpack, or in any location on school premises or at a school function that, upon investigation, is found to be where the student stored, stashed or secreted the gun/weapon.

2. GUNS /FIREARMS

Any student who has in his/her possession any type of gun/firearm, operable or inoperable, while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school, or at any school function or activity will immediately be suspended and recommended for expulsion by the superintendent or principal

of the school where the offending student is assigned.

3. OTHER WEAPONS

a. Use of Other Weapons

i. Any student who uses or threatens to use any hard or sharp object, regardless of its original purpose, for a weapon while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school or any school function or activity will immediately be suspended and recommended for expulsion. Examples of such weapons include, but are not limited to, knife, billy club, brass knuckles, ammunition, throwing stars, pipe club, brick, bat, chain, razors, box cutters, etc.

ii. Weapons used by students shall be seized and turned over to the District's security officer.

iii. Principals shall exercise their own discretion in each instance concerning the necessity of the notification of the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

b. Possession of Other Weapons

i. Possession, by students, of any hard or sharp object, regardless of its original purpose, that may be considered a weapon while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school or any school function or activity shall be considered in violation of this policy.

ii. Suspensions or other punishment for violation of this section of the policy shall be determined by the principal who shall deal with each individual case based on the circumstances.

4. In accordance with state law, the superintendent shall be authorized to modify the period of time for expulsion for violation of this policy on a case by case basis.