

ALBANY SCHOOLS WEAPONS POLICY

Students and non-students, including adults and visiting youths, are forbidden to knowingly or voluntarily possess, store, handle, transmit, or use any instrument that is considered a weapon or a "look-alike" weapon in school, on school grounds, at school sponsored activities, at bus stops, on school buses or school vehicles, or entering upon or departing from school premises, property or events. According to Minnesota State Law, effective August 1, 1993 it is a felony to possess a dangerous weapon within 300 feet of a school building.

A. ZERO TOLERANCE

The District takes the position of "**Zero Tolerance**" on the following objects:

1. All firearms (whether loaded or unloaded)
2. Other guns of all types including pellet or B-B
3. Lead pipes
4. Bows and arrows(except authorized for instruction)
5. Knives
6. Switch blades or automatically opening knives with blades of any length
7. Black jacks, clubs, numchucks,throwing stars, daggers, metal knuckles and like objects
8. Explosives; include but not limited to fireworks, fire crackers, smoke bombs
9. Throwing darts

Zero Tolerance will also be the position of the District when any object (whether real or "look-alike") is used to injure, strike terror or threaten personal injury at or on those places or vehicles listed in the paragraph number 1 of this document.

SECTION "A" VIOLATIONS BY STUDENTS

THE PROCEDURE FOR ALL OFFENSES IS:

1. Call police and request assistance
2. Confiscate the weapon (if it can be done safely)
3. Hold an administrative hearing with students, which will include:
 - a. Notification of parent/guardian
 - b. Involvement of police with recommendation to charge
 - c. Suspension for up to five days
 - d. Recommendation of student expulsion to Superintendent.

SECTION "A" VIOLATION BY OTHER YOUTH OR ADULTS

1. Immediate police involvement with recommendations to charge.

B. INADVERTENT POSSESSION/ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION

While this policy represents a firm "**Zero Tolerance**" position on weapons possession on school property and on or at those places or vehicles listed in paragraph number 1 of this document and is intended to prohibit all weapons for any reason, there could be a very rare occasion when a weapon is inadvertently brought onto school property. If such an occasion is clearly the case, the building principal, after a thorough investigation, may use discretion in determining the appropriateness of the consequences.

Students who discover an inadvertent possession of a weapon on their person must immediately turn it in to the building principal. The building principal will have the weapon removed from school property in a safe and reasonable manner.

C. AUTHORIZED INSTRUCTIONAL AND WORK RELATED EQUIPMENT & TOOLS

While this policy represents a firm, "**Zero Tolerance**" on weapons and/ or look alike weapons it is not meant to interfere with instruction or use of appropriate equipment and tools by employees and students. Such equipment when properly used and stored shall not be considered a weapon for purposes of this policy. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner the guidelines and consequences of this policy will take effect.

D. LENGTH OF EXPULSION

When a student is expelled from school for reasons of weapon possession and/or use, it shall be the intent of the Board of Education that the expulsion shall last for the remainder of the school year. If a student commits an expellable offense near the end of the school year it is the intent of the Board of Education, with advise from legal counsel, to extend the expulsion for one semester into the following year.

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION July 7, 1993.
REVISED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION May 5, 1999.