



TO: School Board Members

FROM: Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: October 20, 2025

SUBJECT: First Reading of Policy 501, School Weapons Policy

BACKGROUND

School District 197 Policy 501, School Weapons Policy was reviewed against Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Model Policy, and the recommended changes are as follows:

- Reorganization of definitions alphabetically with additions of clarifying notes, reflecting alignment with updated MSBA/MASA model policy guidance.
- It expands the list of exceptions under which weapons may be lawfully present on school property, explicitly including gun and knife shows and clarifying conditions for possession on unimproved property, while the older version listed fewer exceptions.
- Reporting obligations are broadened: the updated policy requires both reporting of dangerous weapon incidents to the Commissioner of Education and filing after-action reviews for active shooter incidents and threats with the Minnesota Fusion Center, which was not included in the earlier version.
- The updated policy also adds detailed explanatory notes about statutory authority, superintendent-level discretion, and district flexibility to impose stricter rules than state criminal law, whereas the older version provides only baseline policy statements.

RESOLUTION

This is a first reading, no resolution is needed at this time.