

FALL RIVER JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy 5131.7

STUDENTS

Weapons And Dangerous Instruments

The Governing Board desires students and staff to be free from the danger presented by firearms and other weapons.

Possession of Weapons

The Board prohibits any person other than authorized law enforcement or security personnel from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity away from school, or while going to or coming from school.

Unless he/she has obtained prior written permission, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm at school, as verified by a school employee, shall be expelled for not less than one year, except that the Board may set an earlier date for readmission on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48915; 20 USC 7151)

Under the power granted to the Board to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety of students, staff and the public, any school employee is authorized to confiscate a weapon, dangerous instrument or imitation firearm from any person on school grounds.

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a weapon without permission or commits any act of assault with a firearm or other weapon. (20 USC 7151; Education Code 48902; Penal Code 245, 626.9, 626.10)

Possession of Pepper Spray

To prevent potential misuse that may harm students or staff, students are prohibited from carrying tear gas or tear gas weapons such as pepper spray on campus or at school activities.

Reporting of Dangerous Objects

The Board encourages students to promptly report the presence of weapons, injurious objects or other suspicious activity to school authorities. The identity of a student who reports such activity shall remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies designed to facilitate student reporting of the presence of injurious objects on school grounds, such as tip hotlines, electronic transmissions, or other methods that preserve the student's anonymity. Incident reports and records shall not identify the student who reported the possession. The strategy shall also provide a method of informing staff, students and parents/guardians that students who report the presence of injurious objects on school campuses are to be protected and their identity shielded.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35291 Governing board to prescribe rules for discipline of the schools

48900 Grounds for suspension/expulsion

48902 Notification of law enforcement authorities

48915 Required recommendation for expulsions

48916 Readmission

49330-49335 Injurious objects

PENAL CODE

245 Assault with deadly weapon

417.4 Imitation firearm; drawing or exhibiting

626.9 Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995

626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives, razor or stun gun; bringing or possessing in school

653k Soliciting a minor to commit certain felonies

12001 Control of deadly weapons

12020-12036 Unlawful carrying and possession of concealed weapons

12220 Unauthorized possession of a machine gun

12401-12404 Tear gas

12550-12556 BB devices and imitation firearms

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301-7941 No Child Left Behind Act; especially:

7151 Gun-Free Schools Act

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

911: A Manual for Schools and the Media During a Campus Crisis, 2001

Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1999

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS

0401.01 Protecting Student Identification in Reporting Injurious Objects

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center: <http://www.safestate.org>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss>

National Alliance for Safe Schools: <http://www.safeschools.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/index.html>

(7/01 7/04) 3/08

Board adopted: 10/7/98

Revised: 11/2/05

Policy revised: 6/25/08

Regulation 5131.7

STUDENTS

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Weapons and dangerous instruments include, but are not limited to:

1. Firearms: pistols, revolvers, shotguns, rifles, "zip guns," "stun guns," tasers, and any other device capable of propelling a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion

2. Knives: any dirks, daggers or other weapons with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, weapons with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing, weapons with a blade longer than 3-1/2 inches, folding knives with a blade that locks into place, and razors with an unguarded blade (Education Code 48915)
3. Explosive and/or incendiary devices: pipe bombs, time bombs, cap guns, containers of inflammable fluids, and other hazardous devices
4. Any instrument that expels a metallic projectile, such as a BB or a pellet, through the force of air pressure, carbon dioxide pressure or spring action, or any spot marker gun (Penal Code 626.10)
5. Any other dangerous device, instrument or weapon, especially those defined in Penal Code 12020, including a blackjack, slingshot, billy, nunchaku, sandclub, sandbag, metal knuckles, or any metal plate with three or more radiating points with one or more sharp edges designed for use as a weapon
6. Any imitation firearm, defined as a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm (Education Code 48900)

If an employee knows that a student possesses any of the above devices, he/she shall use his/her own judgment as to the dangerousness of the situation and, based upon this analysis, shall do one of the following:

1. Confiscate the object and deliver it to the principal immediately
2. Immediately notify the principal, who shall take appropriate action
3. Immediately notify the local law enforcement agency and the principal

When informing the principal about the possession or seizure of a weapon or dangerous device, the employee shall report the name(s) of persons involved, witnesses, location, and the circumstances of any seizure.

The principal shall report any possession of a weapon or dangerous instrument, including imitation firearm, to the student's parents/guardians by telephone or in person, and shall follow this notification with a letter.

Board adopted: 10/7/98 Revised: 11/2/05