

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons on School Premises

No person shall have a firearm or other weapon on school premises, at a school sponsored event, on school-provided transportation, at any official school bus stop, or in other areas of other facilities being used exclusively for school activities. Exceptions to this policy are noted below.

School officials shall notify the student's parents or guardians and the appropriate law enforcement agency of known or suspected violations of this policy. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to discipline, including a one-year expulsion for a violation involving a firearm. However, the superintendent may modify the one-year expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

**Reporting Suspected or Known Violations:**

1. Employees shall immediately notify school administration of suspected or known violations of this policy.
2. School administration shall immediately notify local law enforcement of suspected or known violations of this policy.
3. Each school building shall have a written Safety Plan setting forth specific procedures for notifying school administration and local law enforcement as set forth in 1 and 2 above. The Safety Plan shall include (i) who is to be notified, (ii) how they will be notified, (iii) what information is to be reported to school administration and local law enforcement, and (v) the expected timeline for reporting.

**Responsibility of District Officials:**

1. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall review at least annually each school building's Safety Plan.
2. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that appropriate training and drills regarding this policy are conducted on an annual basis.
3. The Superintendent shall see that all school buildings post "No Weapons Allowed" signs and that all violations of this policy and RCW 9.41.280 are reported annually to the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Definitions**

A "firearm" shall mean any weapon or device from which a projectile may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder, compressed air or other propellant. (RCW 9.41.020)

A “weapon” shall mean (i) any weapon capable of producing bodily harm, or (ii) any item or substance that when carried, exhibited, displayed, used, or communicated in a manner or under circumstances, that warrants alarm for the safety of another person. (RCW 9.41.250 and 270). This definition includes items that are inherently weapons (e.g. knives, throwing stars, “nun-chu-ka sticks”) as well as any other items or substances (e.g. baseball bats, pencils, chairs, protractors, or chemicals) that are not designed to be weapons but may be used or threatened to be used as such.

**Exceptions:**

The following persons may carry firearms into school buildings, as necessary:

- persons engaged in military or school district security activities
- persons involved in a school authorized convention, showing, demonstration, lecture, or firearm safety course; and
- any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer.

The following persons may have firearms in their possession on school property outside of school buildings:

- persons with concealed weapons permits issued pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 who are picking up or dropping off students; and
- persons conducting legitimate business at the school and in lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon if the weapon is secured within an attended vehicle, is unloaded and secured in a vehicle, or is concealed from view in a locked, unattended vehicle.

The prohibition against dangerous weapons does not apply to tools and equipment used by district employees or other authorized persons when such tools and equipment are used in the manner and for the purposes for which they are designed and intended.

Persons over eighteen years of age and persons between fourteen and eighteen years of age with written parental or guardian permission may possess personal protection spray devices on school property. No one under eighteen years of age may deliver such devices, nor may anyone eighteen years or older deliver a spray device to anyone under fourteen or to anyone between fourteen and eighteen who does not have parental permission.

Legal Reference:      RCW 9.41                              Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

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RSD #400

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