

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

The Governing Board recognizes that students and staff have the right to a safe and secure campus free from psychological and physical harm and desires to protect them from the dangers presented by firearms and other weapons.

Possession of Weapons

The Board prohibits any student from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, at school-related or school-sponsored activities away from school, or while going to or coming from school.

Unless he/she has obtained prior written permission as specified below, 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. (20 USC 7151; Education Code 48915)

Students possessing or threatening others with any weapon, dangerous instrument, or imitation firearm shall be subject to suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

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 student on school grounds.

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a firearm, explosive, or other dangerous weapon or instrument without permission, sells or furnishes a firearm, 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)

Advance Permission for Possession of a Weapon for Educational Use

A student who desires to possess a firearm, imitation firearm, or other prohibited weapon on school grounds for an educational purpose shall request prior permission from the principal at least five school days in advance of the planned possession. The student's parent/guardian shall provide written permission explaining the planned use of the weapon and the duration. The student shall also submit a written explanation from the staff person responsible for the school-sponsored activity or class.

On a case-by-case basis, the principal shall determine whether to grant permission for such possession when necessary for a school-sponsored activity or class or as part of the educational program. Factors that shall be considered include, but are not limited to, the planned use of the weapon, the duration and location of the planned use, whether an audience is expected, and any perceived adverse effects to the safety and well-being of students or staff. If the principal grants such permission, he/she shall provide the student and staff person with a written explanation regarding any limitations and the permissible duration of the student's possession.

When the principal or designee grants permission, he/she shall take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all persons on school grounds, including, but not limited to, inspecting a firearm to verify that no live ammunition is present. Any weapon allowed shall be stored in a locked vehicle or in an appropriate, locked container before and after its authorized use.

A student granted permission to possess a weapon may be suspended and/or expelled if he/she possesses or uses the weapon inappropriately.

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.

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