

**Students****Welfare****Weapons**

Schools must be highly conscious of the safety, health, and welfare of students, staff, and community members who utilize district facilities. In this regard, no person shall possess, use, store, transfer or make accessible to another person a dangerous weapon or look-alike on school premises, school buses or other vehicles, while under the supervision of a school district authority, or at any school-related event at any time before, during or after normal school hours. This includes legally encased weapons.

The Board defines a dangerous weapon as:

- Articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate other persons. Examples include but are not limited to firearms (loaded or unloaded), explosives or similar destructive devices, BB or pellet guns, look alike weapons, ammunition, knives, razors, karate sticks, knuckles, chains or similar items.
- Any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing bodily harm.
- Any electrical or chemical weapon or any other device which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce bodily harm.
- Articles designed for other purposes but which, in the manner they are used, are calculated to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate others. Examples include but are not limited to belts, combs, pencils/pens, pins, files, compasses, scissors, aerosol sprays, etc.

Policy exceptions include:

- Weapons under the secure control of law enforcement personnel or as otherwise authorized by state law.
- Weapons properly secured and handled during the community use of facilities, such as gun safety courses, community demonstrations and exhibits, etc.
- Theatrical look-alike props used in settings preapproved by the school administration.
- Starter pistols used in appropriate school approved sporting events.
- Items preapproved by the school administration as part of a class or presentation under adult supervision.

Firearms, ammunition, and/or explosive or similar destructive devices will never be approved as part of a presentation or performance.

Violations of this policy which also violate federal or state law and/or local ordinances shall be immediately reported to law enforcement authorities and, when a student is involved, that student's parents or guardian shall also be notified.

Student violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

Employees violating this policy shall be disciplined up to and including termination of employment (in accordance with pertinent employee policies and agreements) and will be referred to law enforcement officials for investigation.

Any other person violating this policy shall be referred to law enforcement officials for investigation.

Students are responsible for taking reasonable steps, in advance, to ensure that any item in their possession or control is not prohibited by this policy. Students who have questions about whether an item is covered by this policy, or whether a particular exception identified in this policy may apply in a specific context should contact their building principal or the Superintendent.

A student who finds him/herself inadvertently in possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall immediately surrender the weapon to a school staff member. An investigation will occur into the circumstances surrounding the possession and surrender of the weapon, and a decision will be made whether to discipline the student, or not, after a consultation between the principal and the Superintendent. If the weapon is surrendered before the student is discovered to be in possession of the weapon and before any incident or disturbance occurs involving the weapon, such factors shall weigh in favor of the student.

If any student has reason to believe that any student, District employee, volunteer, visitor or other person possesses, or has used or stored a weapon in violation of this policy or any other District policy, the student should immediately report that belief to a teacher, building principal, or other responsible adult. Any act of retaliation against a student who, in good faith, reports a possible violation of this policy or participates in the investigation of such a report is prohibited.

**Legal Reference:**

- Wisconsin Statute – 118.07**
- Wisconsin Statute – 118.31**
- Wisconsin Statute – 120.13(1)**
- Wisconsin Statute – 120.13(38)**
- Wisconsin Statute – 941.295(1c)(a)**
- Wisconsin Statute – 943.13**
- Wisconsin Statute – 948.60**
- Wisconsin Statute – 948.605**
- Wisconsin Statute – 948.61**

**Policy Approved:** **January 26, 1995**

**Policy Revised:** **March 25, 1999**  
**July 27, 2015**  
**November 23, 2015**