

## Weapons in School

The Board of Education determines that possession and/or use of a weapon by students is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the District.

### 1. **Mandatory expulsion in accordance with state and federal law**

Carrying, bringing, using or possessing a dangerous weapon on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or the District is prohibited. An exception to this policy may be made for students participating in an authorized extracurricular activity or team involving the use of firearms.

If a student discovers that he or she has carried, brought or is in possession of a dangerous weapon and the student notifies a teacher, administrator or other authorized person in the District, and as soon as possible delivers the dangerous weapon to that person, expulsion shall not be mandatory and such action shall be considered when determining appropriate disciplinary action, if any.

As used in this policy, "dangerous weapon" means:

- a. A firearm, whether loaded or unloaded.
- b. Any pellet, BB gun or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air.
- c. A fixed blade knife with a blade that measures longer than three inches in length or a spring loaded knife or a pocket knife with a blade longer than three and one-half inches.
- d. Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury including, but not limited to slingshot, bludgeon, brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind.

The principal shall initiate expulsion proceedings for students who carry, bring, use or possess a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy. Unless expulsion is otherwise required by federal law, a student may but need not be expelled if as soon as possible upon discovering that he or she is in possession of the dangerous weapon, the student notifies and delivers the weapon to school officials.

In accordance with federal law, expulsion shall be for no less than one full calendar year for a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school in

violation of this policy. The Superintendent may modify, in writing, the length of this federal requirement for expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

## **2. Local restrictions**

The Board of Education determines that extra precautions are important and necessary to provide for student safety. Therefore, the carrying, bringing, using or possessing of any weapon, in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle or at any school-sponsored activity without express authorization is prohibited. Carrying, using, actively displaying, or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm in a school building or on school property may result in expulsion; however, each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Students who violate this policy shall be referred for appropriate disciplinary proceedings.

As used in this policy, "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material or substance, whether animate or inanimate, the presence of which is inappropriate in a school environment and which creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to others, specifically including any fixed blade knife, spring loaded knife, pocket knife or knife of any kind regardless of blade length.

## **3. Record keeping**

The District shall maintain records which describe the circumstances involving expulsions of students who bring weapons to school including the name of the school, the number of students expelled and the types of weapons involved as required by law.

## **4. Law enforcement involvement**

In accordance with applicable law, school personnel shall refer any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school without authorization of the school or the District to law enforcement.

Adopted September 29, 1993  
Revised November 16, 1994  
Revised October 25, 1995  
Revised September 25, 1996  
Revised September 9, 1998  
Revised October 12, 2005  
Revised August 12, 2009  
Revised May 12, 2010

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(VII) Safe schools plan  
C.R.S. 22-33-106 (1)(d) Grounds for suspension, expulsion, and denial of admission  
18 U.S.C. §921(a)(3) federal definition of "firearm"

20 U.S.C. §7151 *et seq.* Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994

CROSS REFS.: GBEF, Weapons in the Workplace  
JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students  
KFA, Public Conduct on School Property

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado