

STUDENTS - POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

POLICY:

The Board of Directors of the Lake Stevens School District No. 4 declares its intent not to tolerate possession of weapons by students on district property or at district-sponsored events. Student possession of a weapon on district property or at district-sponsored events creates a danger to students and staff and is disruptive to the operation of schools.

Students who possess a weapon or carry, exhibit, display, or draw any weapon or any item apparently capable of producing bodily harm in a manner which, under the circumstances, manifests an intent to intimidate another or warrants alarm for safety of others shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Possession includes, but is not limited to, having an explosive device or weapon on district property or at a district-sponsored event located (a) in a space assigned to a student, such as a locker or desk; (b) on the student's person or property, such as on the student's body, in his/her clothing, purse, backpack, gym bag or vehicle; or (c) under the student's control or accessible or available, such as hidden by the student.

An explosive device (including fireworks and firecrackers) and weapon includes, but is not limited to, (a) a firearm, which is a weapon or device from which a projectile may be fired by an explosive; (b) an air gun, which includes any air pistol or air rifle designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide or other gas, or any items which appear to be realistic firearms or air guns; (c) a sling shot, which is a piece of metal or a stone fastened to a short strap, chain or thong; (d) a sling shot, which is a forked piece of wood, plastic, or metal having an elastic band fastened to the prongs for shooting small stones, metal balls, or pebbles; (e) a club, chains, or metal knuckles; (f) a device commonly known as "throwing stars," multipointed metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect; (g) any knife which is a cutting or stabbing instrument with a blade handle; (h) a dirk, which is a type of dagger; (i) any device commonly known as "nun-chu-ka sticks," consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means; (j) any weapon or object

that appears to be a weapon, or firearm, loaded or unloaded, either commercially or home-made, that could inflict bodily injury to others; or (k) any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun which projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse; or (l) any device, object, or instrument which is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

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PROCEDURES:

Except in extenuating or exceptional circumstances, the following discipline shall apply for all offenses:

1. The principal/designee shall place the student on emergency expulsion, in accordance with the Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 180-40.
2. The principal/designee shall notify the parents/guardians and request an immediate conference.
3. The principal/designee shall notify appropriate law enforcement personnel.
4. In cases involving any student who is determined to have carried a firearm onto or to have possessed a firearm on public school premises, public school--provided transportation or areas of facilities being used exclusively by public schools--shall be expelled from school for not less than one year under RCW 28A.600.010. The Superintendent of the school district or his/her designee may modify the expulsion of a student on a case by case basis.
5. In cases involving weapons other than firearms the student shall be placed on long-term suspension, unless expulsion is warranted under the circumstances.

Policy Notice to Students

All students shall be made aware of the provisions of this policy on their first day of school.

Exception

1. Any student while engaged in military education authorized by school authorities in which rifles are used, but not other firearms; or
2. Any student while involved in a convention showing, demonstration, lecture, or firearms safety course authorized by school authorities in which the rifles of collectors or instructors are handled or displayed, but not other firearms; or
3. Any student while participating in a rifle competition authorized by school authorities.
4. All exceptions must be under the supervision of a district staff member.

Cross References:

Policy No. 1610: Regulation of Dangerous Weapons On School Premises

Policy No. 5100.1: Secondary Discipline

Policy No. 5100.2: Elementary Discipline

Legal References:

RCW 9.41.250 Dangerous weapons - Penalty

9.41.270 Weapons apparently capable of producing bodily harm-Unlawful carrying or handling-Penalty-Exception

9.41.280 Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities-Penalty-Exceptions

RCW 28A.600.420 Firearms on school premises, transportation, or facilities - Penalty - Exemptions

WAC 180-40-210 Student responsibilities and duties