

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: 218.6
SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: WEAPONS
ADOPTED: July 16, 2018

218.6 Weapons

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, these terms shall be defined as follows:¹

Weapon - shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm (loaded or unloaded), shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

Possessing - a student possesses a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker, automobile or attire of clothing; otherwise under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

Authority

The school district is committed to providing a safe environment for students and staff. To that end, the Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.²

Any student found in possession of a weapon, regardless of intent, shall be reported to his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and the police. The student shall be

¹ 24 P.S. 1301-A; 1317.2.

² 24 P.S. 1317.2.

placed on an out-of-school suspension and presented to the Board for a formal hearing in accord with the provisions of Policy 233.

In general, a student found in possession of a weapon will be expelled from school for a period of not less than one (1) year. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Board may, however, modify the expulsion period on a case-by-case basis, at the recommendation of the superintendent or designee.³

Delegation of Responsibility

In the case of a student with disabilities, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act when determining disciplinary consequences for such students.⁴

The Superintendent or designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the student's parents/guardians and to local law enforcement officials.⁵

The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.⁶

Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.⁷

Guidelines

Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be notified at least annually regarding this policy. Such annual notification may be made through student handbooks or other District publications.

Transfer Students

When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the duration of that expulsion period.

³ 24 P.S. 1317.2.

⁴ 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.

⁵ 24 P.S. 1317.2.

⁶ 24 P.S. 1317.2

⁷ 24 P.S. 1303-a