

WEAPONS OTHER THAN FIREARMS

The Board of Education believes that all pupils have the right to a safe educational environment. In this interest, it takes a strong stand against the possession of weapons on school property or at school-sponsored activities. Weapons of any type are strictly prohibited on school premises or at any Board-approved activity.

Definition:

Weapons

1. For the purposes of this policy, “weapons” means anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting bodily injury, except a “firearm” as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f. “Weapon” includes, but is not limited to dangerous knives, instruments intended to inflict harm, components that can be readily assembled into a weapon, explosive devices, imitation firearms, stun guns and all other items enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1r, except a “firearm” as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f.
2. This definition includes items capable of causing harm or bodily injury for which there is no educational purpose, or
3. Observed to have been displayed or used as a weapon.
4. This definition also includes but is not limited to Mace, tear gas, brass knuckles, sharp rings and jewelry, blackjacks and martial arts weapons.

Removal

The exclusion of a pupil from the regular education program in the school in which the pupil was assigned and the assignment of the pupil to an alternative education school or program for at least one calendar year following a proper hearing conducted by the Board of Education.

Suspension

A temporary exclusion from school following due process procedures.

Expulsion

A permanent exclusion from school which denies a pupil the right to a free, thorough and efficient public education provided by the public school district in which the pupil resides, based on specific conditions and following due process procedures, including a hearing conducted by the Board of Education.

Penalties:

Level 1—There shall be an immediate suspension pending a mandatory expulsion hearing before the Board of Education for any pupil:

- a. Who has displayed or used as a weapon any item with the intent of threatening or causing bodily injury on school premises or at any Board-approved activity;
- b. Who commits an assault upon a teacher, administrator, board member, other employee of a school board, or another student, with a weapon, as defined in this policy, on any school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.

Level 2—A minimum of ten days suspension and a hearing before a committee of the Board of Education will be required for any pupil found to be in possession of any weapon described in this policy. Given extenuating circumstances, principals may recommend to the Superintendent a reduced penalty and/or a waiver of the Board hearing.

Second Offense: For any second offense, there shall be a mandatory hearing before the Board of Education or a committee thereof. Elementary and middle school pupils shall be scheduled for a disciplinary hearing. High school students shall be scheduled for an expulsion hearing.

POLICY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAYREVILLE
Weapons Other Than Firearms

No. 541
PUPILS
Page 3

In all cases of weapons possession, written notification shall be filed with the Sayreville Police Department. As appropriate, formal police complaints shall be filed.

Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act
N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f
N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1r

Date Adopted: 3/17/1992
Date Revised: 8/17/1993, 6/20/1995, 6/18/1996, 8/19/1997

