

Tyrone Area School District

SECTION: PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: AUGUST 8, 2000

REVISED:

452. WEAPONS	
1. Purpose	<p>Given the responsibility to insure a safe educational community climate for all who use the facilities of the Tyrone Area School District, the Board of Education hereby adopts and directs the Administration to implement, as effectively as possible, the following weapons policy for the ongoing protection of the education community.</p> <p>The possession of weapons on school property or at school-sponsored activities is strictly prohibited, unless otherwise provided for in this policy.</p> <p>This policy has been adopted in accordance with the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C., Section 8921 et al., Section 1317.2 of the Pennsylvania School Code, 24 P.S. Section 1317.2, and Section 1301-A and 1309-A of the Pennsylvania School Code, 24 P.S. Section 1301-A and Section 13-1309-A.</p>
2. Definition	<p>Weapons are defined as, but not limited to: knives; cutting instruments; cutting tools; nunchaku sticks; firearms; pellet guns; BB guns; shotguns; rifles; explosive devices; any tools; Bowie knives; Dirk knives; lock-blade knives; hunting knives; chains; brass knuckles; night sticks; ax handles; metal knuckles; straight razors; poisons; noxious, irritating or poisonous gases (pepper spray, mace); razors; loaded canes; sword canes; machetes; tazers; shockers; or any instruments or implements capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term weapon shall also include <u>any instrument that can reasonably be considered a weapon</u> (e.g., look-a-likes).</p> <p>Possession – a person is deemed to be in possession of a weapon under this policy when such items are found on the person, or under his/her control, including vehicle, etc.</p> <p>The term school property shall include all buildings and grounds owned and/or controlled by and/or utilized by the Tyrone Area School District, and shall also include, but not be limited to, school buses, other school vehicles, and any public conveyance providing transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity.</p> <p>A school-sponsored activity shall mean any activity, regardless of the location, sponsored by the Tyrone Area School District or by a student or parent organization in relationship to said school district.</p>

3. Guidelines

This policy prohibits any person, including school district personnel, from possessing a weapon on any school property, at a school-sponsored activity, or on any public conveyance providing transportation to a school or a school-sponsored activity. **Custodians and maintenance personnel may carry a pocket knife as it relates to their assigned tasks and job responsibilities.**

Authorized school district security personnel are permitted to possess weapons while in the confiscation process of dealing with **an individual on school property** having a weapon, or as part of a school-approved program by an individual who is participating in that program, providing the weapon is used in a lawful manner.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel (borough police, state police, federal police) are permitted. School district security personnel must obtain written authorization from the superintendent to carry weapons.

Nothing in this policy is to be construed to interfere with certain activities necessary for the educational program. This could include, but not be limited to, items in shop class instruction, science instruction, home economics class, and art room instruction.

Reporting Requirements

Any professional staff member or school employee who has indications that another professional staff member, school employee, visitor or non-school personnel is in violation of this policy shall immediately inform the principal who will conduct the complete investigation.

School personnel shall cooperate with law enforcement officials in the detection and prosecution of all violators of this policy.

To the greatest extent possible, information which is supplied shall be kept confidential to protect the individual(s) making the report(s).

Upon just cause for suspicion of possession of a weapon, the principal and authorized school district security personnel on duty will request the person to volunteer to be searched or have such areas under his/her control searched by a school official in the presence of the school district security personnel. If the person resists being searched or having any area under his/her control searched, the principal will immediately request additional police back-up.

Penalty

School district personnel in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to dismissal, as appropriate under the circumstances. School district personnel shall have all rights of due process under the Pennsylvania School Code in the event the board and the superintendent pursue disciplinary action.

If this policy is violated, the police will be contacted to file criminal charges as appropriate.

Visitors or non-school personnel who violate this policy may be prosecuted as trespassers and may be subject to criminal charges for possession of a weapon on school property.

Publication

The superintendent will publicize the board's policy regarding weapons to include signage at appropriate locations on the school campus.

When this policy is violated, the principal and superintendent will develop a public statement, as well as determine the most effective method for informing school personnel. The superintendent will inform board members as soon as measures have been taken to eliminate any danger associated with the incident.

Criminal

All persons found guilty of unauthorized possession of a weapon on school district property are in violation of Section 912 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, which provides that a conviction under this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

