

443.6 POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS – STUDENTS

It is the goal of the School District of Williams Bay to provide a safe and healthy environment for all persons on its premises or attending any of its activities or functions.

- No student shall possess, use, store, transfer or make accessible to another person any weapon, lookalike weapon or facsimile while the student is (a) at school or under the supervision of a school district authority, regardless of the student's location; (b) in any building or facility or on grounds or premises owned, occupied or controlled by the District, at any time; (c) in any District-owned vehicle or on any form of District-provided transportation, at any time; and/or (d) participating in or attending any District-sponsored program or activity.
- No student, while not at school or while not under the supervision of a school authority, shall possess, use, store, transfer, or make accessible to another person any weapon in a manner which (a) endangers the property, health, or safety of others who are at school or under the supervision of a school authority; or (b) endangers the property, health or safety of any employee or School Board member of the District.
- No student shall keep or store, or allow any other person to keep or store, a weapon in a vehicle at any time when the vehicle is located on school premises or other property owned, occupied, or controlled by the District.
- No student shall falsely represent as a weapon anything that, although not a weapon, has (or has been given) the appearance of a weapon (e.g., to intimidate or threaten another person).

The term “weapon” means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms (including, but not limited to, firearms as defined in the Federal and State Gun-Free School Zone Acts (18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3) and Wis. Stat. 948.605) guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives (subject to the exceptions below), razors with unguarded blades, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and “dangerous weapons” as defined in Wis. Stats. 939.22 (10) and 948.61, or facsimiles thereof.

A student who finds him/herself inadvertently in possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall immediately surrender the weapon to a school staff member. An investigation will occur into the circumstances surrounding the possession and surrender of the weapon, and a decision will be made whether to discipline the student or not, after a consultation between the principal and the District Administrator. If the weapon is surrendered before the student is discovered to be in possession of the weapon and before any incident or disturbance occurs involving the weapon, such factors shall weigh in favor of the student.

The Superintendent of Schools/designee is authorized to establish instructional programs on weapons and reporting and dealing with violations of this policy.

Law enforcement will be contacted as soon as possible when it is determined that a weapon is present in violation of this policy where there is any possibility of endangerment.

Sanctions for Violations

Any time school officials determine that a student has possessed or used any firearm, bomb, explosive or similar destructive device, or any other weapon while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority, an administrator shall refer the student and the incident to law enforcement or another representative of the criminal or juvenile justice system. In situations involving a student's possession of a firearm, bomb, explosive or similar destructive device, an administrator shall also suspend the student and commence expulsion proceedings, and the Board shall expel the student from school for at least one year. The Board may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that any such modification is documented in writing. In situations involving other weapons violations under this policy, the student shall be referred for potential disciplinary action, up to and including possible expulsion from school. Where applicable, the District may also impose sanctions under the school activity/athletic code. The requirements of this paragraph shall be construed and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Policy exceptions include:

- Items approved by a principal, District Administrator or their designee or the Board of Education as part of a class, club, or individual presentation under adult supervision, including, but not limited to Hunters' Education courses, if used for and in the manner approved (working firearms, except those protected at all times by a cable or trigger lock, and live ammunition shall never be approved), and environmental programs;
- Theatrical props used in appropriate settings;
- Starter pistols used in appropriate settings;
- A blunt knife designed to be used, and used by the student solely for food consumption, or a knife used for a lawful purpose within the scope of the student's classwork.

This policy will be referenced in all District student handbooks. The publication is not a precondition to the enforcement of this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin State Statutes: 120.13(1), 943.13, 948.605, 948.61, 939.22 (10), 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3), 18 U.S.C. 922, 20 U.S.C. 7151

APPROVED: February 22, 2021