

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: February 18, 2004

REVISED:

	218.1. WEAPONS
1. Purpose	<p>The Board recognizes that the possession of weapons on school property is a criminal offense in the Commonwealth. The district also recognizes that the use of weapons has become a serious problem in schools and in society. Weapons in the schools present serious legal, safety and welfare problems to the school community. As an educational institution, the district will strive to prevent the presence of weapons in the schools. However, when weapons are found in the schools, the district will intervene to remove the weapons and prosecute those individuals responsible for handling the weapon.</p>
2. Definitions SC 1317.2	<p>Weapon – The term shall include but not be limited to any knife, razor, machete, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, bomb, firearm, bb gun, pellet gun, shotgun, rifle, pistol, metal knuckles, loaded cane, sword cane, pepper spray, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term weapon also shall include objects which have the appearance or characteristics of weapons as defined above, or objects which are intended and capable of producing bodily injury. Weapons also shall include look-alike or replica weapons which are not necessarily operable.</p> <p>Possessing – A student possesses a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student. Additionally, a student will be deemed to be in possession of a weapon if the weapon is found in their personal property (for example, book bag, gym bag, purse) or in a place where the individual exercises control (for example, a vehicle or locker) or on property being used by the school or at any school function or activity, any school event held away from the school, or while the student is on the way to or from school.</p>
3. Authority SC 1317.2	<p>Possessing, handling or transmitting weapons on school grounds, in school buildings or on school transportation is prohibited by law. Possession of a weapon at school-sponsored activities also presents serious legal, safety and welfare problems to the school community. Therefore, the district emphasizes that possession of a weapon or knowing of and not reporting, before or during the course of a district investigation,</p>

	<p>the possession of a weapon in the buildings of, on the grounds of, at school-sponsored activities of, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any school building of the district, is a serious violation of the rules and regulations of the district and is prohibited by the Board.</p>
SC 1317.2	<p>Additionally, because of the potentially harmful effect on the school community and the strong public policy of preventing persons from possessing objects which have the appearance or characteristics of weapons in the buildings of, on the grounds of, at school-sponsored activities of, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary educational institution, for purposes of this policy, shall be considered weapons and possession of such objects or knowledge without proper reporting of possession of such objects also shall be a serious violation of the rules and regulations of the district and shall be prohibited by the Board.</p>
SC 1317.2 Pol. 233	<p>The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.</p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq	<p>In the case of a student with disabilities, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.</p>
SC 1317.2	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.</p>
SC 1303-A	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.</p>
SC 1303-A	<p>Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.</p>
5. Guidelines	<p>Students, staff and parents shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.</p> <p>Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.</p>

<p>SC 1317.2</p> <p>Pol. 226</p> <p>Pol. 233</p>	<p><u>Staff and Student Expectations</u></p> <p>Staff members and students observing or otherwise becoming aware of weapons on school property, at school activities, or on school transportation shall report to the building principal immediately.</p> <p>The discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy shall be reported to the student's parents and to local law enforcement officials.</p> <p>Upon reasonable suspicion of possession of a weapon, the principal will request the student to volunteer to be searched by a school official, in the presence of a witness. If the student resists being searched, the principal may request assistance in this matter from the local police. Parents should be notified as soon as possible.</p> <p>The principal will collaborate with the Superintendent and 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 immediate danger associated with the incident.</p> <p>The principal will coordinate the informal hearing procedure, i.e., investigation, securing written statements, witness statements and anecdotal records substantiating the charges of possession, transmitting and/or transporting a weapon, and the informative and notification requirements for a formal hearing for expulsion proceedings in accordance with School Code, with the assistance of the Superintendent.</p> <p>School personnel who supply information relating to this policy shall be immune from prosecution, as defined in law. This immunity is guaranteed even if the information is determined to be inaccurate, if the information provided was given in good faith and with the best interest of the school community in mind.</p> <p>To the greatest extent possible, information which is supplied by students shall be kept confidential to protect the students making the reports.</p> <p><u>Discipline</u></p> <p>Students who violate this policy shall be denied access to the schools and school-related property of the district and shall be denied the opportunity to participate in student activities.</p>
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<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.8 Pol. 233</p>	<p>Students who violate this policy shall be immediately suspended for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days, with an informal hearing with parents scheduled within the first five (5) days of the suspension. The local police will take possession of the weapon and will file criminal charges. The Board, after a hearing on the matter, may permanently expel a student for violating Board policy.</p> <p>The administration shall report every student violation of this policy to the Board.</p> <p>Because violation of this policy may result in the expulsion of a student, students subject to discipline shall be entitled to a formal hearing, pursuant to law and Board policy.</p> <p><u>Miscellaneous Provisions</u></p> <p>Weapons that are possessed and used in conjunction with a lawful supervised school activity or course, or any other legal activity or course, or any other legal activity permitted on school grounds or in school facilities within the Commonwealth shall be permitted by the district, in accordance with prescribed guidelines.</p> <p>Staff members must keep supervised school activities or course requirements involving the possession of weapons to a minimum. Consequently, staff members should seek alternative means of conducting activities or courses where weapons might be brought to school or school-sponsored activities. For example, rather than allowing props to be brought for a class assignment, have the student bring a picture of the item.</p> <p>If weapons must be brought to school for an approved school or school-related activity, students must follow district procedures. The student's parent/guardian must bring the weapon to the school office to be left with an administrator. The parent/guardian must return at the end of the day to retrieve the weapon from the school office.</p> <p><u>Transfer Students</u></p>
<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p>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 expulsion period.</p>
<p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 7151</p>	
<p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114</p>	