

Technical Academies of Minnesota

Adopted: Orig. 6/23/2013

Revised: 8/25/2020

500 SCHOOL WEAPONS POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for District students, staff and the public.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location.

III. DEFINITION

A. "Weapon"

1. A "weapon" means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; airguns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
2. No student shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
3. No student shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

B. "School Location" includes a school building, school grounds, District activities or trips, bus stops, District buses or vehicles, District-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, and all District-related functions.

C. "Possession" means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location. A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in the District building, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in

his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to a District staff member shall not be considered to possess a weapon.

IV. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION

- A. The District takes the use or distribution of weapons by students very seriously. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, using or distributing weapons may include:
1. Immediate out-of-school suspension;
 2. Confiscation of the weapon;
 3. Immediate notification of police;
 4. Parent or guardian notification; and
 5. Recommendation to the Board for dismissal, not to exceed one year.
- B. Pursuant to Minnesota law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school may be expelled for at least one year. The School Board may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

V. POLICY APPLICATION TO INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT/TOOLS

This Policy is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION

While use or distribution of weapons by students is serious, the Board and School Staff may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §§ 127.26-127.39. (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 127.282 (expulsion for possession of firearm)
Minn. Stat. § 127.48 (referral to police)
18 U.S.C. § 921 (definition of firearm)