

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL POLICY

Weapons Policy – Hull Public Schools Wide

It is the policy of the School Hull Public Schools to maintain a positive, safe, secure learning and working environment, the Hull Public Schools takes the position of no tolerance for weapons in our schools or in any other school sponsored activity. All weapons or instruments that have the appearance of a weapon or is used in potentially dangerous or threatening manner are prohibited within all school environments, an at any school sponsored activity except for educational purposes as authorized in advance by the building Principal or designee, or as provided by Massachusetts Statute governing licensed peace officers.

Students and non-students, including adults and visiting youths, are forbidden to possess a weapon in school, on school grounds, at school activities, at bus stops, on school buses or school vehicles, or entering upon or departing from school premises, property, or events. This prohibition applies to all school owned, leased or controlled buildings and grounds, all school owned, leased, or contracted vehicles and applies at any school sponsored event. This prohibition also applies to any vehicle brought to school grounds or school related events.

Definitions

- A. Weapon is defined as any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which is used in potentially dangerous or threatening manner to inflict harm or injury including but not limited to:
1. All firearms, whether loaded or unloaded;
 2. Other guns of all types including pellet, B-B, stun, look-alike, and non-functioning guns that could be used to threaten others;
 3. Knives, switch blades or automatically opening blades, daggers, swords, straight razors;
 4. Artificial knuckles or other objects designed to be worn over the fist or knuckles;
 5. Blackjacks, clubs, numchucks, throwing stars;
 6. Explosives, incendiary devices;
 7. Poisons, chemicals, or substances capable of causing bodily harm;
 8. Bow and arrows, sling shots;
 9. Laser Pointers;
 10. Any other device or instrument that is used or may be used to intimidate, threaten or inflict harm or injury (as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United states Code.)
 11. Mace may be considered a weapon under this Policy. If the student's parents make special arrangements with the building Principal for the student to check the mace into the school office upon arrival and to check the mace out of the school office upon leaving for the day, students may be allowed to carry mace under limited circumstances. Employees may make similar arrangements with the building Principal or supervisor.

- B. Possession means having a weapon on one's person or in an area in one's control, which includes the student's vehicle, desk, or locker, and includes the handling, transmission and use or threat of use of a weapon. If a student discovers that he or she has accidentally brought a weapon to school and immediately takes the weapon to the Principal's office, the student shall not be considered in possession of a weapon. If a student realizes that he or she has brought a weapon to school that is in a vehicle on school grounds, and the student shall inform the Principal or other staff person immediately, the student will not be considered to be in possession of a weapon. If a student finds a weapon on school grounds, the student shall inform the Principal or other staff person immediately and will not be deemed to be in possession of a weapon.
- C. Zero tolerance means the Hull Public Schools strictly prohibits weapons on school grounds and will take immediate disciplinary action with respect to those who violate this Policy. The Hull Public Schools takes a position of zero tolerance on the possession, handling, transmittal, storage, or use of any weapon or object that may be used as a weapon on school grounds or at school related events.

Consequences for Violation of this Policy by Students

- A. Firearms Possession - A student who possesses a firearm as defined by federal law will be recommended for expulsion for at least one year pursuant to Massachusetts's statute. Pursuant to Massachusetts's law, the School Committee may modify this requirement of expulsion through an appeal process, on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Possession of Other Weapons - The following consequences may be invoked at the discretion of the Principal including but not limited to:
 - 1. Confiscation of the weapon;
 - 2. Notification and involvement of Police or Police Liaison;
 - 3. Notification of Parent/Guardian;
 - 4. Suspension, expulsion, exclusion of student pursuant to the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act and federal and state statutes applicable to disabled students;
 - 5. Dismissal of student from a specific class or classes;
 - 6. State mandated reporting of instance; and/or
 - 7. Other actions as determined appropriate by the Principal and approved by Superintendent or designee.

Consequences for Violation of this Policy by Other Youths and Adults Including Employees

The following consequences may be invoked at the discretion of the Hull Public Schools including but not limited to:

- 1. Immediate police involvement;
- 2. Employees may also be subject to Hull Public Schools investigation and application of relevant Hull Public Schools policies and disciplinary procedures; or
- 3. Any further action appropriate to protect the safety of students, staff, others and Hull Public Schools property.

Authorized Instructional and Work Related Equipment and Tools

While this Policy represents a zero tolerance position on weapons and/or look-alike weapons, it is not meant to interfere with instruction or use of appropriate equipment and tools by employees and students. Such equipment when properly used and stored shall not be considered a weapon for purposes of this Policy. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in potentially dangerous or threatening manner, the guidelines and consequences of this Policy will take effect.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:37H & 71:37L
 Federal Gun-Free Schools Act (P.L. 103 382) (GFSA)
 The Youth Handgun Safety Act (Title XI, Subtitle B) (P.L. 103 322)

CROSS REF: Student Handbooks
 ADD

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Hull Public Schools