

# NORTHERN WESTMORELAND CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

No. 218.1

SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: WEAPONS  
ADOPTED: October 20, 2011  
REVISED: June 19, 2025

## Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

## **Definitions**

Weapon - the term shall include but is not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker or assigned storage area; or under the student's control while on center property; on property being used by the center; at any center function or activity; at any center event held away from the center ; or while the student is coming to or from the center.

## **Authority**

The Joint Operating Committee prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any center buildings, onto center property, to any center-sponsored activity, and onto any vehicle providing transportation to or from center or a center-sponsored activity or while the student is coming to or from the center.

The Joint Operating Committee shall, in coordination with the school district of residence, 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 and Joint Operating Committee policy.

The Administrative Director may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

## 218.1 WEAPONS

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the center shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Joint Operating Committee policy.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Administrative Director or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials and the center's emergency preparedness plan.

When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Joint Operating Committee policy

### **Guidelines**

The Administrative Director or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on center property, at any center-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from the center or a center-sponsored activity to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the center's property, in accordance with state and law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Joint Operating Committee policies.

The Administrative Director or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect, as soon as practicable. The Administrative Director or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the center property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Administrative Director or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

In accordance with state law, the Administrative Director shall annually by July 31, report all incidents involving possession of a weapon to the PA Department of Education on the required form.

The building administrator shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the Joint Operating Committee policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the center community.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Administrative Director, in accordance with law who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.

## 218.1 WEAPONS

In accordance with the federal law, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

### Transfer Students

When the center receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the center may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.

### **PSBA New 6/24 © 2024 PSBA**

#### Legal

24 P.S. 1301-A

24 P.S. 1317.2

24 P.S. 1850.1

Pol. 218

Pol. 113.1

Pol. 233

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq

22 Pa Code 10.23

Pol 103.1

Pol. 113.2

Pol. 805.1

24 P.S. 1319-B

Pol. 805

24 P.S. 1302-E

Pol. 236.1

24 P.S. 1306.2-B

22 Pa Code 10.2

22 Pa Code 10.21

22 PA Code 10.25

18 U.S.C 921

18 U.S.C. 922

18 Pa. C.S.A 912

20 U.S.C. 7114

20 U.S.C 7961

22 Pa Code 403.1

34 CFR Part 300

Copyright PSBA 2024