

WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board is committed to providing the students of the District with an educational environment which is free of the dangers of firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons.

The definition of a firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Section 921), which includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. A knife is defined as a cutting instrument having a sharp blade. Dangerous weapons are defined as any item used to harm or intended to harm other individuals.

Unless a student is permanently excluded, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one year for bringing a firearm or knife to a school operated by the Board or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or for possessing a firearm or knife at a school or on any other property owned or controlled by the Board, which firearm or knife was initially brought onto school property by another person, except that the Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include: the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions; the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment; the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

A student may be expelled for up to one year for firearm-related or knife-related incidents occurring off school property while at a school-sponsored interscholastic competition, extracurricular event or other school-sponsored activity.

A student suspended, expelled, removed or permanently excluded from school for misconduct involving a firearm or knife also loses his/her driving privileges. The District may notify the county registrar and juvenile judge within two weeks of the suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion.

The Superintendent may establish a community service program which may be performed in conjunction with, but not in place of, an expulsion imposed upon a student who brings a firearm or knife onto school property. The option of imposing community service in lieu of extending the expulsion into the following school year cannot be extended to a student who is expelled for doing so.

Students who wish to enroll in the District under ORD 3313.64 or 3313.65 but who have been expelled from another school district under ORC 3313.66, and the expulsion has not expired, may be offered an opportunity for a hearing with the Superintendent of the Hilliard City Schools.

Admission to the District may be temporarily denied by the Superintendent until the expiration of the expulsion period.

The Board prohibits students from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus if both of the following apply.

1. The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.
2. The person indicates that the person possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

As defined by Ohio law and for purposes of this policy, an “object that is indistinguishable from a firearm” means an object made, constructed or altered so that, to a reasonable person without specialized training in firearms, the object appears to be a firearm.

Students found in violation of numbers 1 and 2 above may be reported to the local police authority and may be prosecuted under State criminal statutes, as well as disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the District’s student code of conduct and Ohio law.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

[Adoption date: August 14, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: January 22, 2007]

[Re-adoption date: January 28, 2008]

LEGAL REFS.: 18 USC 921
20 USC 2701 et seq., Title IX 9001-9005
Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 8921
ORC 2923.122
3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662
3321.13

CROSS REFS.: JEGA, Permanent Exclusion
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCL, Unsafe Schools (Persistently Dangerous Schools)
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Code of Conduct