

I. PURPOSE

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

II. DEFINITIONS**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; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; 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 person 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 person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, 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 any school building or grounds, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the school, locations of school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, all locations where school-related functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of the school district.

III. C. Possession: having a weapon on one’s person or in an area subject to one’s control in a school location.**POLICY**

A. No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy

B. Exceptions:

1. A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in a school location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the School Leader or other appropriate staff or who immediately notifies the school leader or other appropriate staff shall not be considered to possess a weapon.
2. It shall not be a violation of this policy if a nonstudent (or student where specified) falls within one of the following categories:
 - a. active licensed peace officers,
 - b. military personnel, or students or nonstudents participating in military training, who are on duty performing official duties;
 - c. persons authorized to carry a pistol under Minn. Stat., § 624.714 while in a motor vehicle or outside of a motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle;
 - d. persons who keep or store in a motor vehicle pistols in accordance with Minn. Stat., §§ 624.714 or 624.715 or other firearms in accordance with § 97B.045;
 - e. firearm safety or marksmanship courses or activities for students or nonstudents conducted on school property;
 - f. possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms by a ceremonial color guard;
 - g. a gun or knife show held on school property;
 - h. possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms with written permission of the school leader; or
 - i. persons who are on unimproved property owned or leased by AASC unless the person knows that a student is currently present on the land for a school-related activity.
3. While the school district does not allow the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students, nonstudents, such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students or nonstudents.

- a. 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; 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.
4. Nothing in this policy is to be construed to prohibit the lawful carry or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility.
 - a. For purposes of this policy, the “lawful” carry or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to nonstudent permit-holders authorized under Minn. Stat. § 624.714 to carry a pistol in the interior of a vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle.
 - b. Any possession or carry of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder’s vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.
 - c. Permit holding employees are required to have trigger locks on firearms and to store these firearms in locked containers in a locked compartment of the vehicle while at work or performing employment-related duties.

C. Student Consequences:

1. If found in possession of a weapon, a student shall be immediately suspended out-of-school, shall have the weapon confiscated and parent/guardians and law enforcement shall be immediately notified.
2. Listed as a Major infraction in *Student Policy 5502*, any student who brings a weapon to school shall be expelled for a period of up to one year.

a. This consequence may be modified on a case-by-case basis, as determined by Athlos Academy’s Governing Board.

3. Should a student be expelled from Athlos Academy and decide to transfer to another school after the period of expulsion end, the student’s weapons violation shall be disclosed to the school in connection with the possible admission of the student.

D. Nonstudent Consequences

1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school district, that school district may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.

Legal References:

[Minn. Stat. § 121A.44](#)

Related Documents:

[Discipline Policy 5502](#)