

Community/Board Operation

Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms

I. Definitions:

- A. **Deadly Weapon** means "any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (6). Pellet guns, BB guns, and airsoft guns are considered "firearms" for the purposes of this policy.
- B. **Firearm** means "any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (19). Pellet guns, BB guns, and airsoft guns are considered "firearms" for the purposes of this policy.
- C. **Peace Officer** means "a member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a or 29-19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations unit of the office of the State Treasurer, any special agent of the federal government authorized to enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code, or a member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created and governed by a memorandum of agreement under section 2 of public act 13-170 who is certified as a police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (9).
- D. **Real Property** means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the district's elementary and secondary schools, administrative office buildings, maintenance buildings, and other buildings. Real Property includes, but is not limited to, the following: classrooms, offices, hallways, storage facilities, theaters, gymnasiums, other athletic facilities, cafeterias, common areas, fields, parking lots, access roads under control of the district, and wooded areas.

E. **School-Sponsored Activity** "means any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by a Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school property." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233a(h).

II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217b, the possession and/or use of a deadly weapon or firearm on the Real Property of the district or at a school-sponsored activity, is prohibited, even if the person possessing the deadly weapon or firearm has a permit for such item.

III. Peace Officer Exception

A peace officer engaged in the performance of his or her official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring such item onto the Real Property of the district, or to a school-sponsored activity.

IV. Other Exceptions

Persons in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may possess such item on the Real Property of the district, or to a school-sponsored activity if:

- A. The person brings the deadly weapon or firearm on the Real Property of the district, or to a school-sponsored activity, for use in a program approved by school officials. In such case, the person must give school officials notice of his/her intention to bring such item, and the person must receive prior written permission from school officials.
- B. The person possesses the deadly weapon or firearm on the Real Property of the district, or at a school-sponsored activity, pursuant to a written agreement with school officials or a written agreement between such person's employer and school officials.
- C. An armed security officer employed by the Board of Education to provide security services pursuant to Public Act 13-188 engaged in the performance of his or her official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring and possess such item on the Real Property of the District and to a school-sponsored activity. No person providing security services may be armed without the approval of the Board of Education.

V. Consequences

- A. Unless subject to one of the exceptions listed above, any person who possesses a deadly weapon or firearm on the Real Property of the district and/or at a school-sponsored activity, whether or not the person is lawfully permitted to carry such

deadly weapon or firearm, will be reported to the local police authorities once school officials become aware of its possession.

- B. A student who possesses and/or uses any deadly weapon or firearm on the Real Property of the District or to a school sponsored activity in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with Board of Education Student Discipline Policy.
- C. The Board of Education reserves the right to forbid anyone caught possessing a deadly weapon or firearm on the Real Property of the district, or at a school-sponsored activity, from entering district property, using any and all school facilities, and/or attending school sponsored events.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-233a, et. seq., Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils
Conn. Gen. Stat. §29-28(e), Permit to Carry Pistol or Revolver
Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-3, Penal Code, Definitions
Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-217b, Possession of a Weapon on School Grounds
Public Act 13-188.

Policy References:

Policy 5114, Student Discipline

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WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut