

Abington Heights School District  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Board Policy on Weapons (or look-alike) in the Schools

Purpose

The Board of School Directors shall provide for a safe environment for the operation of the educational program. Weapons (or look-alike) on school property or at school functions present a danger to those present and a direct disruption to a safe and orderly environment. For this reason, students will not be permitted to possess or use any weapon (or look-alike) at any time, in any school district building, on school property, on any school van or bus, or at any school function.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, these terms are defined as follows:

1. The term “possess” shall include but not be limited to having possession of, to control, to have on one’s person, being concealed in one’s clothing or belongings, in a locker, or in a vehicle.
2. The term “school property” shall include but not be limited to all buildings and grounds owned, leased or used by the school district, and any school vehicle or school bus.
3. The term “school function” shall include but not be limited to any regular educational program, extra-curricular activity, athletic event, field trip, dance, concert, fund raising activity or other activity, sponsored or co-sponsored by the school district whether on or off school property.
4. The term “use” shall include but not be limited to display, handle, load, operate, point, discharge or threaten to do one or more of the above actions.
5. The term “weapon” (or look-alike) shall include, but not be limited to any instrument or object capable of inflicting harm in its normal or intended use. It shall include but not be limited to any bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed off shotgun, firearm especially made or especially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor, or cutting instrument, or any other implement which may be used for the infliction of serious bodily injury.

Responsibility

Under the direction of the Superintendent, the district administrators shall implement the following procedures:

Knowledge of a Weapon (or look-alike)

1. Any student discovering, without previous plan or knowledge that he/she is in possession, in transport, or in maintenance of a weapon (or look-alike) as defined in this policy will immediately report the weapon (or look-alike) to a properly authorized adult.
2. All district employees will report the knowledge of any weapon (or look-alike) as defined in this policy to the principal.

#### Possession of a Weapon (or look-alike)

1. The weapon (or look-alike) will be confiscated.
2. The law enforcement agency will be notified.
3. Parent(s) will be notified.
4. The student will be immediately suspended for up to ten (10) days.
5. A required meeting with the principal, student and parent(s) will be held.
6. A recommendation will be made to the Board that expulsion **for one-year period will be considered.**
7. Professional counseling may be required as a condition or reentry to school.

#### Use of a Weapon (or look-alike)

1. The weapon (or look-alike) will be confiscated.
2. The law enforcement agency will be notified.
3. Parents will be notified and requested to come to the school.
4. Criminal charges will be filed immediately
5. The student will immediately be suspended for up to ten (10) days.
6. A required meeting with the principal, student and parents will be held.
7. A recommendation will be made to the Board for expulsion.

#### Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy are the following:

1. The possession and use of the weapon (or look-alike) is required as part of an authorized course.
2. The possession of the weapon (or look-alike) is part of a display, such as in a history class.
3. **The possession of a weapon (or look-alike) that is unloaded and is possessed by an individual while traversing school property for the purpose of obtaining access to public or private land used for lawful hunting, if the entry on school premises is authorized by school authorities.**
4. **The possession and use of a weapon (or look-alike) is part of a program approved by a school by an individual who is participating in the program.**
5. The possession of the weapon (or look-alike) is authorized as a stage prop.
6. The possession and use of the weapon (or look-alike) is part of an interscholastic sports activity.
7. **The school superintendent may recommend discipline short of expulsion on a case-by-case basis.**
8. **The superintendent in the case of an exceptional student shall take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. & 1400 et seq.)**
9. A written request, with documentation, for each exception must be submitted in advance to the superintendent or building principal for approval.

### Reporting

1. **The school superintendent shall report the discovery of a prohibited weapon (or look-alike) to local law enforcement officials.**
2. **The school superintendent shall report to the Department of Education all incidents relating to expulsions for possession of a weapon (or look-alike) on school grounds, school sponsored activities or public conveyances providing transportation to a school or school sponsored activity.**