

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: JICIA Weapons Violence & School Safety

Adopted: January 2004

Revised: February 2011

PHILOSOPHY:

It is the philosophy of the RSU #16 School Board that safety is a basic concept and condition in public education. To support a safe school environment, the RSU #16 School Board has adopted this policy.

POLICY:

The RSU #16 School Board believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in a school environment free of violence, threats, and disruptive behavior. **All persons** are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with RSU #16 School Board policies, school rules, reasonable unwritten behavior expectations, and applicable state and federal laws.

School staff is required to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct by **any person** to the building administrator/designee for investigation and appropriate action.

Prohibited Conduct

All persons are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct on school property, while in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or at any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school:

- A. Possession and/or use of articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce, or harass another person. Examples of such articles include, but are not limited to, firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, any kind of gun, ammunition, explosives, cross-bows, brass knuckles, clubs, Kung Fu stars, nun chucks, switchblades, butterfly knives, knives and chains.
- B. **Exceptions:**
 - a. **Knives used by school staff, contractors hired by the school and emergency personnel.**
 - b. **Folding knives commonly known as pocket knives, Swiss Army knives, and leathermen type tools with individual blades not to exceed 3 ½ inches used by non-students.**
- C. Use of any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce, or harass another person. Examples of such articles include, but are not limited to, bats, belts, picks, pencils, compasses, objects of ignition (e.g. matches, lighters), files, tools of any sort, and replicas of weapons (including toys).
- D. Violent threatening behavior including, but not limited to fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property (e.g. verbal or written death threats, threats of bodily harm, bomb threats);
- E. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through a computer) which threaten, intimidate, or harass others, which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program;
- F. Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property;
- G. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;
- H. Lewd, indecent, or obscene acts or expressions of any kind;
- I. Violations of the school unit's drug/alcohol and tobacco policies;
- J. Violations of state or federal laws; and
- K. Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property.

Disciplinary Action of Students

Principals may suspend and/or recommend expulsion of students who violate this policy, based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Conduct which violates this policy is deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for peace and usefulness of the school. Such conduct may also be grounds for expulsion under other provisions

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of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9 and 9A) that specifically prohibit the use and possession of weapons, infractions of violence, and possession, furnishing, and trafficking of scheduled drugs. Students who are found to have brought a firearm to school (as defined by federal law) shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year, unless this requirement is modified by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

All firearms violations shall be referred to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Other violations of this policy shall be referred to law enforcement authorities at the discretion of the Superintendent, building administration and/or designee(s).

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws/regulations.

Disciplinary Action of Non-Students

The Principal will inform the non-student of the School Board policy. Voluntary compliance of removal of weapon from school property is expected. In the case of a firearm violation, if the individual(s) fails to comply with the request, the violation(s) shall be referred to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Other violations of this policy shall be referred to law enforcement authorities at the discretion of the Superintendent, building administrator and/or designee.

Psychological Evaluation/Risk Assessment of Students

The RSU #16 School Board authorizes the Superintendent to request an immediate psychological evaluation of a student who violates this policy when, in his/her opinion, such an evaluation will assist in assessing the risk the student poses to school safety if the student were to remain in school.

The Superintendent is also authorized to request psychological evaluation of students who have been identified as posing a substantial risk of violent behavior. All such evaluations shall be performed at the school unit's expense.

If the parents/guardians and/or student refuse to permit a requested psychological evaluation, the Superintendent and the RSU #16 School Board may draw any reasonable inferences from the student's behavior concerning the risk the student poses to school safety for purposes of determining appropriate action.

REPORTS:

A record of all violations and documentation of the procedure used to deal with the violation are required under this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

20 USCA § 8921 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994)
5 MRSA § 4681 et seq.
17-A MRSA §§ 2(9); 2(12-A)
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9); 1001(9-A); 6552

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

RSU #16 School Board

Dave Griffiths, Chair

DATE

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Mary Ella Jones, Vice Chair

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Annette Annance

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Carlton Beckett

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Terri Arsenault

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Susan Callahan

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Norm Davis

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Melissa Hodgkin

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Scott Sawyer

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Martha Stone

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Jack Wiseman

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Chris Woodford

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