

Sparta Area School District

Article 522 - Possession or Use of Weapons

No one shall possess or use a dangerous weapon or look-alike weapon in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school sponsored activities except as otherwise specifically provided. According to state law, any person who knowingly possesses or goes armed with a dangerous weapon on school premises is guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony, depending upon the seriousness of the offense. A minor who violates this law is subject to the provisions outlined in Chapter 48 of the State Statutes unless jurisdiction is waived. Students of the Sparta Area School District must be aware of the fact that such acts of misconduct will not be tolerated.

A dangerous weapon or look-alike weapon is defined in state statutes and includes a gun, knife, razor, martial arts equipment, metal buckle, or any other object which, by the manner in which it is used or intended to be used, is capable of inflicting bodily harm or could pretend to be capable of inflicting bodily harm.

Law enforcement officers and the Superintendent of Schools/designee shall be contacted as soon as possible in a weapons situation. If there is not time, or the situation warrants immediate action, the school staff should attempt to confiscate the weapon. The building principal will also report confiscation of weapons to the police.

A dangerous weapon(s) taken from a student will be reported to the student's parents/guardians. Disciplinary measures taken will be the responsibility of the building principal and will include suspension, referral to law enforcement authorities, and referral for expulsion. A recommendation for expulsion will be presented to the Superintendent and/or the Board of Education if the facts in the situation indicate that the health and safety of students or faculty have been endangered.

The following are three exceptions to this policy:

1. Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted
2. Weapons that are properly registered in the school office and handled in a legal manner for the purpose of education may be authorized by the principal
3. Weapons properly registered in the school office and handled during the community use of school facilities may be permitted.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference:

Approved:

Revised: