

MOON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: August 24, 1993

REVISED: July 21, 2008

218.1. WEAPONS	
1. Purpose	The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.
2. Definition	For purposes of this policy, a weapon shall include any tool, instrument or implement capable, or having the appearance of being capable, of inflicting serious bodily injury and possessed or used under circumstances not manifestly appropriate for lawful uses which it may have. The term weapon shall include, but shall not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, club, blackjack, metal knuckles, explosive device, firearm, shotgun, rifle or similar device from which a projectile may be discharged, including a firearm or other weapon which is not loaded or which lacks a component or device necessary to render it immediately operable, and a look-alike or replica of a weapon.
3. Authority SC 1317.2	A student commits an offense under this policy if the student is in possession of a weapon.
Pol. 218.8	Possession of an article which otherwise would be a weapon is justified only when the article is used in conjunction with a lawful, school supervised course, program or activity. An alleged offense under this policy shall result in a mandatory formal hearing before the Board of School Directors (or, as authorized by the Board, a committee of the Board or hearing examiner). The Superintendent may exclude the student from school pending the hearing. Further disciplinary action will be determined by the Board.
SC 1317.2 Pol. 218.8	The standard penalty for an offense under this policy shall include expulsion from school for a period of not less than one (1) year. The penalty shall include permanent expulsion from school where one or more of the following aggravating circumstances exist: 1. Possession of a firearm.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Possession of a knife or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by push-button, switch, spring mechanism or otherwise. 3. Possession of a bomb or similar explosive device, the use of which could cause serious bodily injury or property damage. 4. By use of a weapon, attempt to cause, or intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury to another. 5. By use of a weapon, attempt to put another in fear of imminent bodily injury. 6. Significant history of rules violations.
<p>SC 1317.2</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1317.2</p>	<p>The Superintendent may recommend lesser discipline on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall report suspected violation of this policy to the local police and shall implement school/police protocols.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.</p>
<p>SC 1303-A</p>	<p>Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.</p>
<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p>An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.</p>
	<p>Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.</p>
<p>18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922</p>	<p>In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.</p>

<p>SC 1317.2</p>	<p><u>Transfer Students</u></p> <p>When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1303-A, 1317.2</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 403.1</p> <p>Possession of Weapon on School Property – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 912</p> <p>Gun Control Act – 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922</p> <p>Individuals With Disabilities Education Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.</p> <p>Gun-Free Schools Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7151</p> <p>No Child Left Behind Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7114</p> <p>Individuals With Disabilities Education, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 300</p> <p>Board Policy – 218.8</p>
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