

443.8 POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS - STUDENTS

The Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, look-alike weapon or facsimile in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, a school-sponsored event, or in a District vehicle, to the extent permitted by law, without the permission of the Superintendent of Schools/designee. **Students of the Wisconsin Rapids School District must be aware that such acts of misconduct will not be tolerated.**

The term “weapon” means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms (including, but not limited to, firearms as defined in the Federal and State Gun Free School Zone Acts (18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3) and Wis. Stat. 948.605) guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives (subject to the exceptions below), razors with unguarded blades, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and “dangerous weapons” as defined in Wis. Stats. 939.22 (10) and 948.61, or facsimiles thereof.

The Superintendent of Schools/designee is authorized to establish instructional programs on weapons and reporting and dealing with violations of this policy.

Law enforcement will be contacted as soon as possible when it is determined that a weapon is present in violation of this policy where there is any possibility of endangerment.

The building principal or Superintendent of Schools/designee will refer any student who violates this policy to the student’s parents or guardians and may also make a referral to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Disciplinary measures taken will be the primary responsibility of the building principal and may include suspension in non-endangering situations. A referral to a pre-expulsion conference held by the building principal will occur in endangering situations. If, following a pre-expulsion conference, administration concludes that the facts of the situation indicate that the health and/or safety of students, faculty or others present have been endangered, a recommendation for expulsion will be presented to the Board of Education. The Board may consider remedies in lieu of or in addition to expulsion.

Policy exceptions include:

- items approved by a principal, Superintendent of Schools/designee or the Board of Education as part of a class, club, or individual presentation under adult supervision, including, but not limited to Hunters’ Education courses, if used for the purpose of and in the manner approved (working firearms, except those protected at all times by a cable or trigger lock, and live ammunition shall never be approved), and environmental programs;

- theatrical props used in appropriate settings;
- starter pistols used in appropriate settings;
- a blunt knife designed to be used, and in fact used by the student solely for food consumption, or a knife used for a lawful purpose within the scope of the student's class work.

This policy will be referenced in all District student handbooks. Publication is not a precondition to enforcement of this policy.

LEGAL REF.: 120.13(1), Wis. Stats.
943.13, Wis. Stats.
948.605, Wis. Stats
948.61, Wis. Stats.
939.22 (10), Wis. Stats.
18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)
18 U.S.C. 922
20 U.S.C. 7151

CROSS REF.: 447.3 – Student Suspension and Expulsion
522.9 – Possession or Use of Weapons – Staff/Employees

ADOPTED: October, 1995

REVISED: September 9, 2013