

Students

Dangerous Weapons in the Schools

Search and Seizure

The Board of Education is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for learning. The Board of Education prohibits the possession of any firearm or deadly weapon on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity, regardless of whether that person possesses a permit for the weapon involved. A violation of this prohibition constitutes a felony and will be reported to law enforcement officials for criminal prosecution. Any employee who violates this policy may be disciplined, up to and including termination from employment.

Any student who possesses a firearm or deadly weapon as these terms are defined in Board policy 5114 will be subject to expulsion proceedings pursuant to that policy and Connecticut General Statutes 10-233d. The possession by a student of a firearm or deadly weapon on school property will be reported to law enforcement officials for criminal prosecution. The term “possession” as used herein includes possession on the student's person, including the student's personal effects.

The school administration is authorized to search a student's person, including the student's personal effects, the student's locker or desk, or the student's automobile while parked on school property, where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student is in possession of, or possesses in his or her locker, desk, or automobile, a firearm or deadly weapon, or any material or substance such as illicit drugs or other substance the possession of which on school property is prohibited by law or Board policy. The scope of any such search shall be reasonably related to the circumstances giving rise to the search. This means that the measures adopted for conducting the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and gender of the student and the nature of the infraction.

(cf. 5114 – Removal, Suspension/Expulsion)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 53a-217b Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds
 54-33n Searches of school lockers and school property
 10-233d Student expulsion
 New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325, 105 S.Ct. 733 (1985)

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WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Waterford, Connecticut