

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Policy

WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

The possession and/or use of a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, any destructive devise, or other dangerous weapon (as defined under section 948.61 of the Wisconsin statutes) is prohibited at all times in school buildings and other buildings owned, occupied or controlled by the school district, as well as on school premises, in school-provided transportation, and at activities under school supervision, except where state law prohibits a school district from restricting an individual's right to possess a firearm or other weapon in such locations.

State-issued licenses permitting certain private individuals to lawfully carry a handgun or certain other weapons in various public places generally do not permit the possession, carrying or use of such weapons in schools or on school premises. This policy is not intended to prohibit the possession or use of potentially dangerous objects not designed primarily as weapons, provided that such objects have been issued or expressly authorized by the District, and provided that such objects are possessed and used exclusively for their limited and authorized purpose.

Law enforcement officials shall be contacted to help deal with a weapons situation which presents an immediate threat to safety. If the situation does not allow an opportunity to contact law enforcement officials immediately, school staff shall attempt to diffuse and control the situation in the safest manner possible until law enforcement officials can be summoned or arrive. Appropriate information and training shall be provided to staff in dealing with weapons situations in accordance with the District Crisis Plan.

A student who possesses a firearm or destructive device in violation of this policy shall be suspended from school, referred for an expulsion hearing and expelled from school for not less than one year. The Board of Education may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. Students otherwise possessing a weapon in violation of any District policy or rule shall be subject to appropriate school disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion from school. A law enforcement or juvenile justice referral shall also be made for all students violating this policy.

Any other person violating this policy shall be referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution under applicable state laws and/or local ordinances.

On a case-by-case basis, the Board or the Board's designee may give advance approval allowing an exception to this policy for a specific event or activity, provided that the request for such an exception is also consistent with the discretionary exceptions authorized under state law.

This policy shall be published annually in student and staff handbooks and through other means appropriate to notify the public as required by law or determined by the administration.

LEGAL REF.:	Federal Laws:	Gun-Free Schools Act 18 U.S.C Sec. 921(a) – Definition of "firearm"
		Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
	State Laws:	Section 118.07 – School Safety Plans 118.31 – Use of Reasonable Force to Obtain Weapon 120.13(1) – School Board Powers 175.60 – License to Carry a Concealed Weapon 941.23 – Carrying a Concealed Weapon 943.13 – Criminal Trespass Law 948.60 – Possession of Dangerous Weapon Under 18 Years of Age 948.605 – Gun-Free Schools Zones 948.61 – Dangerous Weapons Other Than Firearms on School Premises

CROSS REF.: District Crisis Plan

Adopted: 07/06/1995

Reviewed:

Revised: 01/09/2006, 12/12/2011