

***Board File: JICI***

**WEAPONS IN SCHOOL**

The Board of Education will not tolerate unauthorized student possession or use of dangerous weapons on District property or at District-sponsored activities. Such behavior is unacceptable, detrimental to the safety of others, and destructive to a positive learning environment.

Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a dangerous weapon in a school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity without the authorization of the school principal or the District is prohibited and is grounds for mandatory expulsion.

“Dangerous weapons” include, but are not limited to:

1. Firearms, loaded or unloaded, or firearm facsimiles that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm.
2. Pellet or BB guns or other devices, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air.
3. Fixed-blade knives with blades that measure longer than three inches in length or spring-loaded knives or pocket knives with blades that measure longer than three and one-half inches in length (the knife blade will be measured from the hilt to the top of the blade); and any knives, regardless of length, which a student uses or presents in a threatening manner.
4. Any other object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury.

School staff members shall confiscate dangerous weapons possessed in violation of this policy and submit them to the appropriate school administrator. Law enforcement authorities shall also be contacted.

A student may, but need not, be expelled for violating this policy if, as soon as possible upon discovering that he or she is in possession of a dangerous weapon, the student notifies and delivers the weapon to a teacher, administrator, or other authorized person.

In accordance with federal and state law, expulsion shall be for one calendar year for any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school without the authorization of the school or the District. The superintendent may reduce the length of this required expulsion period on a case-by-case basis.

Any student bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school shall be referred to law enforcement officials as appropriate. For purposes of this paragraph, a “firearm” includes:

1. Any weapon, including a starter gun, which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
4. Any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, grenade, or similar device.

As required by law, the District shall maintain records which will describe the circumstances involving expulsion of students who bring weapons to school, including the name of the school, the number of students expelled, and the types of weapons involved.

Student possession or use of fixed-blade knives with blades that measure less than three inches in length or pocket knives with blades that measure less than three and one-half inches in length (the knife blade will be measured from the hilt to the top of the blade), box cutters, razor blades, hobby knives and similar instruments without the specific authorization of a school official is prohibited. The possession or use of such items without authorization may be grounds for disciplinary action including, but not limited to suspension or expulsion. In addition, referral to law enforcement authorities may occur as appropriate.

Current practice codified 1988

Adopted: July 13, 1988

Revised: August 17, 1988

Revised: May 5, 1993

Revised: October 6, 1993

Revised: November 2, 1994

Revised: February 7, 1996

Revised: August 20, 1996

Revised: August 19, 1997

Revised: May 16, 2000

Revised: August 7, 2001

Revised: October 15, 2002

Revised: April 19, 2005

Revised legal references: October 21, 2003

**LEGAL REFS.:**

18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3) (federal definition of “firearm”)

20 U.S.C. 7151 (Gun-Free Schools Act)

C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(VII)

C.R.S. 22-33-106(1)(d)

**CROSS REF.:**

JKD/JKE, Student Suspension, Expulsion, and Classroom Removal

Douglas County School District Re. 1, Castle Rock, Colorado