

**School District of Gilmanton**  
**WEAPONS POLICY**

*Written 9/96*

*Revised 3/19/01*

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy shall be:

- A. To define unacceptable behavior in terms of weapons and appropriate sanctions for violation of this policy.
- B. To ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors in the School District of Gilmanton.

**II. Policy**

Weapons: No student or student visitor shall possess a weapon before, during or after school hours in any school district location as defined below.

*"Possession"* refers to having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control on school property or at a school trip or activity or any school district location (as defined below).

*"Expulsion"* means an action by a School Board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a pupil for a period that shall extend beyond the school year.

*"Suspension"* means an action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the School Board, prohibiting a pupil from attending school (out-of-school suspension) in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

*"School District location"* means in any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-approved or school-sponsored activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the School District.

*"Weapons"* are identified in three categories:

**Category I weapons:**

- Articles used as weapons to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate other persons and are actually used by the student.  
Examples include but are not limited to: *instruments designed as weapons, firearms, whether loaded or unloaded; knives; homemade weapons; razor blades; razor blade knives or holders; clubs, metal knuckles used in a threatening matter; numchucks; throwing stars; stink bombs; explosives( including fireworks); stun guns; ammunition; chains; pellet guns; BB guns; bows; cross boys; mace; tear gas; pepper gas; sling shots; wrist rockets; look-a-like guns (except obvious squirt guns whether empty or filled with water); and other non-functioning guns that could be used to threaten others, or any flammable or harmful liquid or other device or instrumentality if that, in the manner is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm.*
- This list may include articles not designed as weapons but are used to inflict bodily harm.  
Examples include, but are not limited to: *belts, scissors, combs, pencils or pens, metal files, balls, bats, lighters (when used as a weapon), compasses, letter openers, staples, pins and darts.*
- Also included in Category I is any firearm including pellet gun or BB gun found to be in possession by a student, whether or not it has been used.

### **Sanction Category I:**

For student involved in any incident where weapons were used (Category I), the school authorities shall have for their use all discipline alternatives available for immediate response including, but not limited to initial suspension, confiscation of the weapon(s), and notification of parent or guardian. The school authorities shall immediately notify the local law enforcement when a Category I weapons violation occurs. The school authorities shall immediately suspend the student out-of-school for up to fifteen days and initiate the expulsion process.

### **Category II weapons:**

- Articles commonly used as weapons or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate other persons are in the willful possession of the student, but not used by the student to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate other persons.

Examples include but are not limited to: *knives; homemade weapons; razor blades; razor blade knives or holders; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; throwing stars; stink bombs; explosives, including fireworks; stun guns; ammunition; chains; bows; cross bows; mace; tear gas; pepper gas; sling shots; wrist rockets; look-a-like guns (except for obvious squirt guns empty or filled with water); flammable or harmful liquids.*

### **Sanction Category II:**

For students found to have been in possession of a weapon as defined by Category II in violation of this policy, the student may be (1) immediately suspended out-of-school for up to fifteen days and; (2) appropriate law enforcement will be notified, and (3) have determined a date and time for a re-admittance conference. The Administration shall meet immediately for a determination of whether or not an expulsion is warranted.

### **III. The following exceptions to the possession of an instrument that could be used as a weapon will be made as follows:**

1. An instrument which could be used as a weapon, unloaded with no ammunition on person, may be allowed onto school property after explicit written permission is granted by a school authorities. In such a case, the permission statement shall contain the reason for the instrument to be allowed upon the school property, the specific dates and times when the instrument which may be on the property and the specific safeguards that would be taken in regard to the particular exception.
2. An instrument that is used in the orderly conduct of a person's business or personal use, used in a way which is both appropriate and non-threatening.  
Examples may include such items as: *knives and tools used by maintenance personnel, starter pistols which fire blanks and are used for track meets, personal pocket knives used for non-threatening uses and tools used for educational purposes such as those used in Industrial Arts, Home Economics, Art and Science courses.*
3. A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in a school building and informs the school authorities, or takes the weapon to the school authorities, shall not be considered to be in possession of the weapon. If a weapon is discovered in a vehicle after arriving at school, the school authorities should be notified and they will then impound the weapon.

### **IV. Application**

This policy shall apply to all district students on any school-sponsored activity and transportation to and from such activities. Student visitors who violate this policy will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement and will also be referred to his/her school administration.