

**DATE:** March 10, 1999

## **WEAPONS**

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The principal of the school shall implement this policy.

### **PROCEDURES:**

#### **A. Definition**

“Weapon” includes:

1. **Firearms**, which include but are not limited to, any handgun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, automatic or semi-automatic rifle, or any gun, device, or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectile ball, slug, pellet, missile, or bullet, or any gas, vapor, or other noxious thing, by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or the igniting of flammable or explosive substances. It also includes any firearm that is in the nature of an air gun, spring gun or pistol, or other weapon of a similar nature in which the propelling force is a spring, elastic band, carbon dioxide, compressed or other gas or vapor, air or compressed air, or is ignited by compressed air, and ejecting a bullet or missile smaller than three-eighths of an inch in diameter, with sufficient force to injure a person. Firearms for the purposes of this procedure means those items enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f and 18 U.S.C. 921.
2. **Components** that can be readily assembled into a weapon.
3. **Gravity knives**, which means any knife that has a blade that is released from the handle or sheath thereof by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force.
4. **Switchblade knives**, which means any knife or similar device that has a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife.
5. **Daggers, dirks, stilettos**, and other dangerous knives.
6. **Ballistic knives**, which means any device capable of lethal use that can propel a knife blade.

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7. **Billies, blackjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles, sandclubs, slingshots, cesti**, or similar leather bands studded with metal filings or razor blades imbedded in wood.
8. **Stun guns**, which means any weapon or other device that emits an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily or permanently disable a person.
9. **Any device** that projects, releases, or emits tear gas or any other substance intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.
10. **Imitation firearms**, which means an object or device reasonably capable of being mistaken for a firearm.

## B. Confiscation

1. A school employee who confiscates any weapon shall immediately notify the school principal.
2. The principal shall immediately notify the Chief of Police of the Bernards Township Police Department by telephone that a weapon has been confiscated and shall request removal of the weapon by a police officer. The telephone call shall be confirmed in a written letter.
3. The principal shall safeguard the weapon until a law enforcement officer takes custody of it in the following ways:
  - The principal shall place the weapon in a box or container.
  - The principal shall record or cause to be recorded on the container or on a document attached to the container...
    - A description of the weapon;
    - The name and signature of the person who confiscated the weapon;
    - The date, time, and place the weapon was confiscated;
    - The circumstances under which the weapon was confiscated; and
    - The name of the pupil staff member believed to be in possession of the weapon when it was confiscated.
  - The container will be placed in a secure location under lock and key under the principal's direct control.
  - In the event any person other than the principal is permitted access to the weapon prior to its retrieval by a law enforcement officer, that person shall enter his or her name and signature on the record along with the time and date of inspection and the reason for the access. Access to the weapon will be permitted only in the presence of the principal.
  - The law enforcement officer who takes custody of the weapon shall be required to sign and date the record to indicate his or her receipt of the substance or item.

4. The principal shall provide to the law enforcement officer who takes custody of the weapon:
  - All information concerning the manner in which it was confiscated;
  - The identity of all persons who had custody of the weapon following its confiscation; and
  - The identity of any pupil or staff member believed to have been in possession of the weapon.

### **C. Evacuation**

1. The principal shall direct the immediate evacuation of the school building or the appropriate portion thereof in the event that:
  - The presence of an incendiary device or explosive is known or is reasonably reliably suspected;
  - A person possessing a firearm or incendiary device or explosive refuses to surrender the weapon and the use of force necessary to confiscate the weapon would place another person at serious risk; or
  - The principal in his or her judgment believes that the school community is at risk and the building should be evacuated.
2. Regular evacuation routes may be modified as required to protect pupils and staff members from danger.
3. Law enforcement officers shall be summoned immediately to any school building evacuated under this procedure.

### **D. Removal of Pupils from Education Program**

1. A pupil convicted or found to be delinquent for possessing a firearm on any school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or a pupil committing a crime with a firearm shall be immediately removed from the school's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year in accordance with Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act and Policy 5611.
2. A pupil who assaults a member of the school community with a weapon other than a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function must be immediately removed from the school's regular education program in accordance with Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act and Policy 5611.
3. Removal of pupil for reasons enumerated in this Procedure shall be in accordance with Policy and Procedure 5611.

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4. The building principal will immediately notify the pupil's parent or legal guardian if the pupil is found to be in possession of a firearm on school property or if a pupil commits an assault upon members of the school community with a weapon other than a firearm on school property.

PLEASE REFER TO PROCEDURES DEVELOPED FOR POLICY #9320, COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WHICH ARE ALSO APPLICABLE TO THIS POLICY.

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