

DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS,
BOMB THREATS AND VIOLENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education is committed to providing the students of the District with an educational environment which is free of the dangers of firearms, knives, other dangerous weapons, bomb threats and violent conduct.

Firearms and Knives

The definition of a firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Section 921), which includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. A knife is defined as a cutting instrument having a sharp blade or edge which is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

The Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one year for bringing a firearm to a school operated by the Board or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, except that the expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy.

The Superintendent may expel a student from school for a period of one year for bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the District. The Superintendent may reduce the expulsion on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy.

The Superintendent may expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for bringing a knife to a school operated by the Board, onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the District or in which the District is a participant, or for possessing a firearm or knife at a school, on any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or at an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity, which firearm or knife was initially brought onto school property by another person. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion, as necessary, into the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include: the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions; the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment; the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of or awareness of the perpetrator regarding possession of a firearm or knife.

A student suspended, expelled, removed or permanently excluded from school for misconduct involving a firearm or knife also loses his/her driving privileges. The District must notify the county registrar and juvenile judge within two weeks of the suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion.

Bomb Threats

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this division extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Objects Indistinguishable from Firearms

The Board prohibits students from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus if both of the following apply:

1. The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.
2. The person indicates that he/she possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

As defined by Ohio law and for purposes of this policy, an “object that is indistinguishable from a firearm” means an object made, constructed or altered so that, to a reasonable person without specialized training in firearms, the object appears to be a firearm.

Students found in violation of numbers 1 and 2 above may be reported to the local police authority and may be prosecuted under state criminal statutes, as well as disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the District’s student code of conduct and Ohio law.

Violent Conduct

The Superintendent may expel a student for a period of up to one year if the student commits an act at school, on any other property owned or controlled by the Board, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act:

1. would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult; and

2. results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in Revised Code Section 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in Revised Code Section 2901.01(A)(6).

The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one year, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

1. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs; or
2. other extenuating circumstances.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3313.66; 3313.661

Adopted: March 21, 2019