

# WEAPONS

## Background

The District believes that students, staff and visitors to a school have the right to pursue their affairs in a safe and protective environment. The District considers the possession or use of any weapon by anyone, other than a peace officer, on or near school premises or at school events, to be a serious threat to the safety and security of students and staff.

Possession of a weapon on or near school premises is a threat to the safety and security of students and staff and is to be interpreted as a clear violation of the Administrative Procedure 104 - District Code of Conduct. Students shall not possess, display or use any weapon, except as otherwise approved by the Principal, on any school premises, school bus or contracted transport or at any activity off school premises that is organized or sponsored by a school. The Superintendent directs all school personnel who believe that such a threat exists to take appropriate action in accordance with the following Administrative Procedure to ensure the safety of both students and staff.

## Definition

A weapon is:

- Anything used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing death or injury to any person or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes any firearm or any device prohibited or restricted under the Criminal Code of Canada.
- Anything that is a replica, facsimile, imitation or toy designed or intended to replicate the foregoing
- Anything else that, in the opinion of the Principal, is potentially dangerous in the hands of a particular student or in a particular situation.

## Procedures

### 1. Management of Risk

- 1.1 When a Principal or staff member reasonably believes that a person traveling to and from school or on or near school premises, without lawful reason,
  - 1.1.1 Is in possession of a weapon on his or her person or in any other place at or near the school, or
  - 1.1.2 Has used such a weapon for the purposes of intimidation or assault;
- 1.2 The situation is to be treated with the utmost seriousness, that the Principal be informed and that the Principal or when appropriate, a staff member, shall as expeditiously as possible, within the discretion granted under Sections 6, 85 of the School Act and [Administrative Procedure 104 – District Code of Conduct](#).

- 1.2.1 Make all reasonable attempts to minimize the risk of injury to any other person,
- 1.2.2 Notify the police if that action is deemed appropriate
- 1.2.3 Attempt to ensure that the weapon is controlled
- 1.2.4 Confiscate and/or arrange with the appropriate authority to have the weapon removed from the school premises or surroundings. Any weapons seized shall be considered forfeited.
- 1.2.5 When deemed necessary by the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) school threat assessment team (TAT), schools will conduct a violence and risk assessment on any student who is in possession of a weapon.
- 1.2.6 As with any critical incident within your school, notify your Associate Superintendent.

## 2. Disciplinary Action

- 2.1 If a weapon is in the possession of, is used by, or attempted to be used by a student, disciplinary actions such as suspensions may occur in concert with [AP 104 – District Code of Conduct](#) and [AP 355 - Student Suspensions](#).

## 3. Weapon Possession Approved by the Principal

- 3.1 Principals may use discretion in approving the use of objects that are defined as weapons for such activities as drama and theatrical productions, archery activities, outdoor education activities and Remembrance Day observances.
- 3.2 Such objects shall be stored and transported appropriately when not required for such productions, activities and observances.

## 4. Exceptions for Religious Reasons

With the single exception of Kirpans worn by Sikh males, when a parent, based on religious grounds, wishes his/her child to wear a religious symbol which falls within the definition of "weapon" at school, the following procedure must be followed:

- 4.1 The parent must obtain authorization from the Superintendent for his/her child to wear such a symbol;
- 4.2 When a student arrives at school with a religious symbol which falls within the definition of a weapon, and authorization has not been obtained from the Superintendent, the Principal will immediately contact the parent and request that:
  - 4.2.1 The religious symbol be surrendered, or
  - 4.2.2 The student return home until official authorization has been obtained from the Superintendent and a meeting with the student's parents has taken place.

## 5. Awareness

- 5.1 Details of this Administrative Procedure shall be included in each school's Code of Conduct and communicated at the beginning of each school year to students, parents and staff members.

Reference: Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 79, 85 School Act

Adopted: March 11, 1998

Amended: May 18, 2005; April 4, 2007; September 1, 2018