

WEAPONS, VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL SAFETY

The Dayton School Board believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in a school environment free of violence, threats and disruptive behavior. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board policies, school rules, reasonable unwritten behavior expectations, and applicable state and federal laws.

School staff are required to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct by students to the building administrator for investigation and appropriate action.

Prohibited Conduct

Students are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct on school property, while in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity, or at any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

- A. Possession and/or use of articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person. Examples of such articles include but are not limited to firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, any other kind of gun, ammunition, explosives, cross-bows, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, chains, clubs, Kung Fu stars, and nunchucks;
- B. Use of any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person. Examples of such articles include but are not limited to bats, belts, picks, pencils, compasses, objects capable of ignition (e.g., matches, lighters), files, tools of any sort and replicas of weapons (including toys);
- C. Violent or threatening behavior, including but not limited to fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property (e.g., verbal or written death threats, threats of bodily harm, bomb threats);
- D. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through a computer) which threaten, intimidate, or harass others, which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program.

The Superintendent is also authorized to request psychological evaluations of students who have been identified as posing a substantial risk of violent behavior.

All such evaluations shall be performed at the school unit's expense.

If the parents/guardians and/or student refuse to permit a requested psychological evaluation, the Superintendent and the Board may draw any reasonable inferences from the student's behavior concerning the risk the student poses to school safety for purposes of determining appropriate action.

Legal References: 20 USCA § 8921 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994)
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9); 1001(9-A); 6552
17-A MRSA §§ 2(9); 2(12-A)

Cross Reference: ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
EBCA – Crisis Response Plan
JICH – Student Discipline
JK – Student Discipline
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JKF – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities
JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students
KLG – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

First Reading: 4/13/2000

Adopted: 5/11/2000