

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

Series 5000

Students

BP 5131.7

Weapons And Dangerous Instruments

The Governing Board recognizes that students and staff have the right to a safe and secure campus free from physical and psychological harm and desires to protect them from the dangers presented by firearms and other weapons.

Possession of Weapons

The Board prohibits any student from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or other dangerous instruments, as defined in law and administrative regulation, in school buildings, on school grounds, when using district provided transportation, at school-related or school-sponsored activities away from school, or while going to or coming from school.

If a student is in possession of a prohibited weapon, imitation firearm, or dangerous instrument which creates a threat or perceived threat of a homicidal act, any employee or other school official who is alerted to or observes such threat shall immediately report the threat to law enforcement.

Under the power granted to the Board to protect the safety of students, staff, and others on district property and to maintain order and discipline in the schools, any school employee is authorized to confiscate any prohibited weapon, imitation firearm, or dangerous instrument from any student on school grounds.

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a firearm, explosive, or other prohibited weapon or dangerous instrument without permission, sells or furnishes a firearm, or commits any act of assault with a firearm or other weapon. (Education Code 48902; Penal Code 245, 626.9, 626.1020 USC 7961)

Unless a student has obtained prior written permission as specified below, a student possessing or threatening others with any weapon, dangerous instrument, or imitation firearm shall be subject to suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

All staff shall be made aware of their responsibilities regarding the reporting of potential homicidal acts to law enforcement, and receive training in the assessment and reporting of such threats.

Advance Permission for Possession of a Weapon for Educational Purposes

The parent/guardian of a student who desires to possess a firearm, imitation firearm, or other prohibited weapon on school grounds for an educational purpose shall submit a written request to the principal, at least five school days in advance of the planned possession which explains the planned use of the weapon and the duration, together with a written explanation from the staff person responsible for the school-sponsored activity or class.

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The principal may grant permission for such possession when it is determined that possession of a firearm, imitation firearm, or other prohibited weapon on school grounds is necessary for a school-sponsored activity or class or as part of the educational program. Factors that shall be considered include, but are not limited to, the planned use of the weapon, the duration and location of the planned use, whether an audience is expected, and any perceived adverse effects to the safety and well-being of students or staff. If the principal grants such permission, the student and staff person shall be provided with a written explanation regarding any limitations and the permissible duration of the student's possession.

When the principal or designee grants permission, all necessary precautions shall be taken to ensure the safety of all persons on school grounds and the safe keeping of the weapon, including, but not limited to, inspecting a firearm to verify that no live ammunition is present. Any permitted weapon shall be stored in a locked vehicle or in an appropriate, locked container before and after its authorized use.

Any student granted permission to possess a weapon may be suspended and/or expelled if the weapon is possessed or used inappropriately.

Possession of Pepper Spray

To prevent potential misuse that may harm students or staff, students are prohibited from carrying tear gas or tear gas weapons such as pepper spray on campus or at school activities.

Reporting of Dangerous Objects

The Board encourages students to promptly report the presence of weapons, injurious objects, or other suspicious activity to school authorities. The identity of a student who reports such activity shall remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies designed to facilitate student reporting of the presence of injurious objects on school grounds, such as tip hotlines, electronic transmissions, or other methods that preserve the student's anonymity. Incident reports and records shall not identify the student who reported the possession. The Superintendent or designee shall also inform staff, students, and parents/guardians that students who report the presence of injurious objects on school campuses are to be protected and their identity shielded.

Legal Reference:

State

Ed. Code 35291

Ed. Code 48902

Ed. Code 48915

Description

Governing board to prescribe rules for discipline of the schools

Mandatory notification of law enforcement authorities

Required recommendation for expulsions

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Ed. Code 48916
Ed. Code 48980
Ed. Code 49330-49335
Ed. Code 49390-49395
Pen. Code 16100-17360
Pen. Code 22810-23025
Pen. Code 245
Pen. Code 25200-25225
Pen. Code 30310
Pen. Code 417.4
Pen. Code 626.10

Pen. Code 626.9

Federal

20 USC 6301-8961
20 USC 7961
6 USC 665k

Management Resources

CSBA Publication

U.S. Department of Education
Publication

Website

Website

Website

Website

Website

Website

Website

Website

Website

Readmission

Parent/Guardian notifications

Injurious objects

Homicide threats

Definitions

Tear gas weapon (pepper spray)

Assault with deadly weapon

Firearms; access to children

Prohibition against ammunition on school grounds

Imitation firearm; drawing or exhibiting

Dirks, daggers, knives, razor or stun gun; bringing or
possessing in school

Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995

Description

No Child Left Behind Act

Gun-Free Schools Act

Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Evidence-Based
Practices

Description

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure
Student Success, Third Edition, October 2011

Guidance Concerning State and Local Responsibilities Under
the Gun-Free Schools Act, 2018

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Fusion Centers](#)

[California State Threat Assessment System](#)

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal
Services](#)

[U.S. Department of Education, Safe Schools](#)

[National Alliance for Safe Schools](#)

[National School Safety Center](#)

[U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug Free
Schools](#)

[California Department of Education, Safe Schools](#)

[CSBA](#)

Adopted: 8-5-92

Amended: 9-17-02; 5-18-04, 9-18-07, 6-10-08, 9-21-10, 5-15-12, 6-20-23