



## **Weapons in the Schools\*\***

Students shall not bring, possess, conceal or use a weapon on or at public charter school property, activities under the jurisdiction of the public charter school or interscholastic activities administered by a voluntary organization approved by the State Board of Education (i.e., Oregon School Activities Association).

For purposes of this policy, and as defined by state and federal law, weapon includes:

1. A “dangerous weapon” means any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury;
2. A “deadly weapon” means any instrument, article or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious physical injury;
3. A “firearm” means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm silencer or any destructive device;
4. A “destructive device” means any explosive, incendiary or poison gas component or any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A destructive device does not include any device which is designed primarily or redesigned primarily for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety or similar device.

Weapons may also include, but are not limited to, knives, metal knuckles, straight razors, noxious or irritating gases, poisons, unlawful drugs or other items fashioned with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents and patrons.

Replicas of weapons, fireworks and pocket knives are also prohibited by public charter school board policy. Exceptions to the public charter school’s replicas prohibition may be granted only with prior public charter school executive director approval for certain curriculum or public charter school-related activities.

Prohibited weapons, replicas of weapons, fireworks and pocket knives are subject to seizure or forfeiture.

In accordance with Oregon law, any employee who has reasonable cause to believe a student or other person has, within the previous 120 days, unlawfully been in possession of a firearm or destructive device as defined by this policy, shall immediately report such violation to a public charter school executive director, his or her designee or law enforcement. Employees who report directly to law enforcement shall also immediately inform the executive director.

Public charter school executive director shall promptly notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of staff reports received and at any other time there is reasonable cause to believe violations have occurred or that a student has been expelled for bringing, possessing, concealing or using a dangerous or deadly weapon, firearm or destructive device. Parents will be notified of all conduct by their student that violates this policy.

Employees shall promptly report all other conduct prohibited by this policy to the executive director.

Students found to have brought, possessed, concealed or used a firearm in violation of this policy or state law shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year. All other violations of the policy will result in discipline up to and including expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement, as appropriate. The public charter school executive director may, on a case-by-case basis, modify this expulsion requirement. The public charter school may also request suspension of a student's driving privileges or the right to apply for driving privileges with the Oregon Department of Transportation, as provided by law. Appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action will be taken against students or others who assist in activity prohibited by this policy.

Special education students shall be disciplined in accordance with federal law and Board policy JGDA/JGEA - Discipline of Students with Disabilities, and accompanying administrative regulation.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel or a person who has a valid license under ORS 166.291 and 166.292 are permitted. The public charter school executive director may authorize other persons to possess weapons for courses, programs and activities approved by the public charter school and conducted on public charter school property including, but not limited to, hunter safety courses, weapons-related vocational courses or weapons-related sports.

The public charter school may post a notice at any site or premise off public charter school grounds that at the time is being used exclusively for a public charter school program or activity. The notice shall identify the public charter school as the sponsor, the activity as a public charter school function and that the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons in or on the site or premises is prohibited under ORS 166.370.

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in a school zone is prohibited. A "school zone," as defined by federal law, means in or on school grounds or within 1,000 feet of school grounds, including public charter schools.

"Gun-Free School Zone" signs may be posted in cooperation with city and/or county officials as appropriate. Violations, unless otherwise accepted by law or this policy, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 161.015](#)  
[ORS 166.210 - 166.370](#)  
[ORS 166.382](#)  
[ORS 338.115\(a\)\(j\)](#)  
[ORS 339.115](#)  
[ORS 339.240](#)  
[ORS 339.250](#)

[ORS 339.315](#)  
[ORS 339.327](#)  
[ORS 809.135](#)  
[ORS 809.260](#)  
  
[OAR 581-021-0050 to -0075](#)

[OAR 581-053-0010\(5\)](#)  
[OAR 581-053-0230\(9\)\(k\)](#)  
[OAR 581-053-0330\(1\)\(r\)](#)  
[OAR 581-053-0430\(17\)](#)  
[OAR 581-053-0531\(16\)](#)  
[OAR 581-053-0630](#)

Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, 18 U.S.C. §§ 921(a)(25)-(26), 922(q) (2006).  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 - 1427 (2006).  
Youth Handgun Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(x), 924(a)(6) (2006).  
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7117 (2006).

**Cross Reference(s):**

JFCM - Threats of Violence  
JGDA/JGEA - Discipline of Students with Disabilities