

Weapons in the Schools

No person, including students, district employees, district patrons and vendors, shall bring, possess, conceal, brandish, or use a weapon on or at district property, including parking lots, at activities under the jurisdiction of the district or at interscholastic activities administered by a voluntary organization approved by the State Board of Education (i.e., Oregon Schools Activities Association), except as provided by Oregon or Federal law or otherwise set forth in this policy. Those individuals with a concealed weapons permit are asked to voluntarily comply with the intent of this policy and not bring a weapon onto district property.

Violations, unless otherwise excepted by law or this policy, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

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

1. “Dangerous weapon” - 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. “Deadly weapon” - any instrument, article or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious physical injury;
3. “Firearm” - a firearm is defined as (a) 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 (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon or (c) any firearm silencer.
4. “Destructive device” - any device with an 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.
5. Weapons may also include, but not be 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 Board policy. Exceptions to the district’s replicas prohibition may be granted only with prior building principal approval for certain curriculum or 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 an administrator, his/her designee or law enforcement. Employees who report directly to law enforcement shall also immediately inform an administrator.

Administrators 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 an administrator.

Students found to have brought, possessed, concealed or used a dangerous or deadly weapon, firearm or destructive device in violation of this policy 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 superintendent may, on a case-by-case basis, modify this expulsion requirement. The district 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.

Special education students shall be disciplined in accordance with federal law and Board Policy JGDA/JGEA, Discipline of Disabled Students, and accompanying administrative regulations. Appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action will be taken against students or others who assist in activities prohibited by the policy.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted. The superintendent may authorize other persons to possess weapons for courses, programs and activities approved by the district and conducted on district property including but not limited to hunter safety courses, weapons-related vocational course or weapons related sports.

Property leased or rented by the district and used for district-sponsored events or activities falls under all conditions of this policy. The district may post a notice at any site or premise off district grounds, that at the time is being used exclusively for a school program or activity. The notice shall identify the district as the sponsor, the activity as a school function and that the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons in or on the site or premises is prohibited under ORS 166.370.

The district shall maintain a record of the number of expulsions for weapons and the types of weapons concerned.

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.

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

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 161.015	OAR 581-021-0050 to -0075
ORS 166.210 - 166.370	OAR 581-053-0010(5)
ORS 166.382	OAR 581-053-0015(7)(k)
ORS 332.107	OAR 581-053-0545(4)(c),(w)
ORS 339.115	OAR 581-053-0550(5)(v)
ORS 339.240	
ORS 339.250	
ORS 339.260	
ORS 339.315	
ORS 339.327	
ORS 809.060	
ORS 809.260	

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).