

DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

Section:
Title:
Date Adopted:
Date Revised:

No. 821
Operations
Firearms/Weapons
February 21, 1996
April 20, 2009

1 **821. FIREARMS / WEAPONS POLICY**

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3 Students are not permitted to possess, handle or transmit weapons on school grounds (including
4 lockers or cars), at school-sponsored activities, or on buses and other vehicles provided by the school
5 district, under any circumstances. Discipline for violation of this policy shall be in compliance with Gun-
6 Free Schools Act of 1994 and any other relevant laws or regulations, subject to the discretion of the
7 District Administration. At the discretion of the District Administration, any student found to be in
8 violation of this policy may receive up to ten days of out-of-school suspension with an information
9 hearing with the student's parents to be scheduled within the first **three** days of suspension. If the
10 Administration determines that the disciplinary violation warrants discipline in excess of a ten day
11 suspension, a disciplinary hearing before the Board of School Directors will be scheduled. The District
12 Administration has the authority and discretion to contact the local police with regard to any incident
13 where a student brought or possessed a firearm and/or weapon on school grounds.

14
15 As used in this policy, "weapon" means any gun of any type, operable or inoperable, facsimile
16 (lookalike) of a gun, firearm, shotgun, rifle, nunchaku, blackjack, sandbag, tasers, shockers, pipe, club,
17 brass knuckles, dagger knife, razor, cutting tool, cutting instruments, the blade of which is exposed in
18 an automatic way by switch, push button, spring mechanism, or otherwise, or any instrument or
19 implement capable of the infliction of serious bodily injury.

20
21 For purposes of this policy, an individual "possesses" a weapon in violation of this policy when the
22 weapon is found on his/her person. Additionally, an individual will be deemed to be in possession of a
23 weapon if the weapon is found in his/her personal property (for example, book bag, gym bag purse) or
24 in a place where the individual exercises exclusive control (for example, a desk, locker, or vehicle).

25
26 Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be denied access to the schools and school-related
27 property of the District and shall be denied the opportunity to participate in co-curricular and extra-
28 curricular student activities. Violation of this policy shall result in the immediate suspension of the
29 student for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days or until such earlier time as the board of School
30 Directors conducts a hearing on the matter. Any suspension in excess of three (3) school days shall be
31 subject to the informal hearing requirements established by 22 Pa. code Chapter 12. If, after formal
32 hearing before the board of School Directors or a committee or designee thereof, the student has been
33 adjudicated to have violated this policy, the student shall be expelled for a period of not less than one
34 year, provided, however, that the Superintendent may recommend discipline short of expulsion on a
35 case-by-case, non-precedential basis.

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37 Special education students who are found to have violated this policy will continue to be entitled to all
38 rights as specified in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1415 et. seq.
39 and any amendments thereto.

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41 All incidents involving a student's possession of a weapon or weapons in violation of this policy must be
42 reported by the Superintendent to local law enforcement officials and to the Department of Education in
43 accordance with Section 1302-A and 1303-A of the Public School Code, as amended. In addition, the
44 administration will maintain the reports of incidents of violence as required by Section 1307-A of the
45 Public School code, as amended.

46

47 Prior to admission to the District, the parent or guardian of a student must, upon registration, provide a
48 sworn or affirmed statement that the pupil was previously suspended or expelled from any public or
49 private school of this commonwealth or any other state for an act or offense involving weapons, alcohol
50 or drugs, or for the willful infliction of injury to another person or for any act of violence committed on
51 school property. The registration must be maintained as part of the student's disciplinary record.

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53 To ensure the fair and reasonable application of the Deer Lakes Firearms/Weapons Policy, it is hereby
54 stated that active administration may, upon certain knowledge of situation of circumstance, exercise
55 sound professional judgment and discretion in the fulfillment of their duties in relation to discipline.

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57 Any and all exercises of this nature shall remain subordinate to the disposition of the Superintendent of
58 Schools.