

EUT POLICY ON WEAPONS, VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL SAFETY

Prohibited Conduct

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

1. 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, and other kinds of gun, ammunition, explosive, crossbow, brass knuckles, switchblade, knives, chains, clubs, throwing stars and nunchucks;
2. 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 (matches and lighters) files, tools of any sort, and replicas of weapons (including toys);
3. Violent or threatening behavior, including but not limited to fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, and threats to commit violence against persons or property (verbal or written threats, threats of bodily harm, bomb threats);
4. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through the use of a computer) that threaten, intimidate or harass others;
5. Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property;
6. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;
7. Lewd, indecent, or obscene acts or expressions of any kind;
8. Violations of the Division of State School's policy on drugs or alcohol;
9. Violations of state or federal laws; and
10. Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property.

Disciplinary Action

Building principals may suspend and/or recommend expulsions of pupils who violate this policy based on the facts of each case and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Conduct which violates this policy is deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly with the meaning of Title 20-A MRSA § 1001 (9 and 9A) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school.

Pupils who are found to have brought a firearm to school (as defined by federal law) shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year unless this requirement is modified by the Director of State Schools — EUT on a case-by-case basis.

All firearms violations shall be referred to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Other violations of this policy shall be referred to law enforcement authorities at the discretion of the Director.

Pupils with identified disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state

laws/regulations. The Director of State Schools is authorized to request an immediate psychological evaluation of a pupil who violates this policy when such an evaluation will assist in assessing the risk of a pupil who violates this policy when such an evaluation will assist in assessing the risk the pupil poses to school safety if the pupil were to remain in school. The Director is also authorized to request psychological evaluations of pupils who have been identified as posing a substantial risk of violent behavior. All such evaluations will be performed at no charge to the parents.

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

Reviewed: May 2022