

Regulation

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

A. Definitions:

1. "Weapon" includes:

- a. Firearms, which include any handgun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, automatic or semiautomatic rifle, or any gun, device, or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectable ball, slug, pellet, missile, or bullet, or any gas, vapor or other noxious thing, by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or the igniting of flammable or explosive substances. It also includes any firearm that is in the nature of an air gun, spring gun or pistol, or other weapon of a similar nature in which the propelling force is a spring, elastic band, carbon dioxide, compressed or other gas or vapor, air or compressed air, or is ignited by compressed air, and ejecting a bullet or missile smaller than three-eighths of an inch in diameter, with sufficient force to injure a person.
- b. Components that can be readily assembled into a weapon.
- c. Gravity knives, which means any knife that has a blade that is released from the handle or sheath thereof by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force.
- d. Switchblade knives, which means any knife or similar device that has a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife.
- e. Daggers, dirks, stilettos, and other dangerous knives.
- f. Ballistic knives, which mean any device capable of lethal use that, can propel a knife blade.
- g. Billies, blackjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles, sandclubs, slingshots, cesti or similar leather bands studded with metal filings or razor blades imbedded in wood.
- h. Stun guns, which means any weapon or other device that emits an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily or permanently disable a person.
- i. Any device that projects, releases, or emits tear gas or any other substance intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.
- j. Imitation firearms, which means an object or device reasonably capable of being mistaken for a firearm.

2. "Destructive device" means any device, instrument or object designed to explode or produce uncontrolled combustion, including:

- a. any explosive or incendiary bomb, mine or grenade;

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- b. any rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces or any missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter of an ounce;
 - c. any weapon capable of firing a projectile of a caliber greater than 60 caliber;
 - d. any Molotov cocktail or other device consisting of a breakable container containing flammable liquid and having a wick or similar device capable of being ignited. The term does not include any device manufactured for the purpose of illumination, distress signaling, line-throwing, safety or similar purposes.
3. "Explosive" means any chemical compound or mixture that is commonly used or is possessed for the purpose of producing an explosion and which contains any oxidizing and combustible materials or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or packing that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion or by detonation of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects.

B. Confiscation

1. A school employee who confiscates any weapon shall immediately notify the school principal.
2. The principal shall notify the Superintendent or his/her designee.
3. The principal shall notify the Passaic City Police Department by telephone that a weapon has been confiscated and shall request removal of the weapon by a police officer.
4. The principal shall safeguard the weapon until a law enforcement officer takes custody of it.
 - a. The principal shall secure the weapon.
 - b. The principal shall record the following in a report provided to the Superintendent or his/her designee:
 1. A description of the weapon;
 2. The name and signature of the person who confiscated the weapon;
 3. The date, time, and place the weapon was confiscated;
 4. The circumstances under which the weapon was confiscated; and
 5. The name of the student or staff member believed to be in possession of the weapon when it was confiscated.
 - c. The weapon will be placed in a secure location under lock and key and under the principal's direct control.
5. The principal shall provide to the law enforcement officer who takes custody of the weapon:
 - a. All information concerning the manner in which it was confiscated;
 - b. The identity of all persons who had custody of the weapon following its confiscation; and
 - c. The identity of any student or staff member believed to have been in possession of the weapon.
6. The principal shall follow up with law enforcement to obtain an official copy of the police report issued following the incident.

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C. Evacuation

1. The principal shall direct the immediate evacuation of the school building or the appropriate portion thereof in the event that:
 - a. The presence of a destructive device, an incendiary device or explosive is known or is reasonably reliably suspected;
 - b. A person possessing a firearm, a destructive device, incendiary device, or explosive refuses to surrender the weapon and the use of force necessary to confiscate the weapon would place another person at serious risk; or
 - c. The principal in his or her judgment believes that the school community is at risk and the building should be evacuated.
2. Regular evacuation routes may be modified as required to protect students and staff members from danger.
3. Law enforcement officers shall be summoned immediately to any school building evacuated under this regulation.

D. Prevention

While these regulations speak to actions that need to be taken when weapons and dangerous instruments are discovered, every employee must be constantly vigilant regarding this issue. No rumor is to be ignored, every effort must be made to cooperate with police, each staff member needs to refer suspicions to the administration and every effort needs to be made to foster a culture that promotes zero tolerance for weapons and dangerous instruments.

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