

Dangerous Weapons

It is a violation of Washington State law for any person to carry onto school premises, school-provided transportation, or facilities while being used by the school district any firearm or dangerous weapon. A violation constitutes grounds for expulsion from the Riverview School District and the public schools of the state of Washington, in accordance with the due process provisions of Washington State Law. School officials shall promptly notify law enforcement and the student's parent or guardian regarding any allegation or indication of such violation. (RCW 9.41.250, RCW 9.41.280)

1. Firearms are defined as weapons such as a handgun, rifle, or any device from which a projectile may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder.
2. Dangerous weapons include items known as a sling shot, sand club, blackjack, billy club, metal knuckles, or any pocket knife whose blade is greater than two inches, any double-sided knife, any spring or mechanically loaded knife, such as a switch-blade, any knife having a blade which opens by force of gravity, or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement such as a butterfly knife, any knife with a fixed blade of any length, or any saber, sword, dagger or dirk. Devices known as "nun-cha-ku sticks" consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means; "throwing stars" or any metal object designed to embed upon impact from any aspect. This includes any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, and other gas.
3. Dangerous weapons also include any contrivance or device for suppressing the noise of any firearm or the carrying of any device or contrivance with intent to conceal any dagger, dirk, pistol, or dangerous weapon.
4. Dangerous weapons also include any disabling or incapacitating items such as electronic stunning/shocking devices; Any object used in a threatening manner and/or used as a weapon which could reasonably be perceived, given the circumstances, as having the ability to cause bodily harm even though not commonly thought of as a deadly or dangerous weapon, such as a starter pistol, flare gun, cayenne pepper, ice pick, elongated scissors, or straight razor; or
5. Dangerous weapons also include any explosives or incendiary components which by themselves or in conjunction with other items can result in an explosion or fire, such as explosive materials, blasting caps, fireworks, gasoline, other flammable liquids, ammunition, or any combination of these items generally referred to as a bomb; or

6. Dangerous weapons also include toy or "dummy" or look-alike object, or any object which looks or acts like a weapon, such as a firearm, knife, projectile or grenade if possessed, displayed and in fact intimidates with dangerous intent.

Consequences and Enforcement

Enforcement of the weapons policy is guided by a position of "zero tolerance". Possession of firearms on school property will result in a one-year mandatory expulsion, subject to appeal, with notification to parents and law enforcement. However, the administrator may use discretion in assigning a dangerous weapons offense as a Category 1 or Category 2 violation.

Category 1 Weapons Violation:

All firearms violations are Category 1. Dangerous weapons violations where the administrator finds the circumstances pose a material threat to the safety of the student, other students or staff members are Category 1. The procedures for Category 1 offenses are:

1. Contact police immediately to report and assist with all firearms incidents and with dangerous weapons if required by circumstances.
2. Confiscation of the weapon or police will assist to safely confiscate.
3. Contact the parent or guardian. An emergency expulsion will be assigned. During this period an investigation of the incident will be completed and a recommendation for corrective action developed.
4. Conduct a follow-up conference with the parent or guardian and present the findings of the investigation and assign corrective action.
5. The range of corrective actions for Category 1 violations for possession of a firearm shall be an expulsion for at least one year.
6. Corrective actions for dangerous weapons incidents shall include long-term suspension or expulsion.

Category 2 Weapons Violation

Category 2 applies to all objects that may be considered a dangerous weapon but the presence and circumstances of possession do not present a material danger to self, other students or staff by use or intent. The administrator may exercise discretion when interpreting use and intent with such objects. Examples of Category 2 objects include small pocket knives, nuisance items and toys, tools or other unauthorized items.

The procedures for all Category 2 offenses are:

1. Confiscation of the object or weapon.
2. Notification of the parent or guardian.
3. Assignment of an emergency expulsion. During this period an investigation of the incident will be completed and a recommendation for corrective action developed.
4. Conduct a follow-up conference with the parent or guardian presenting the findings of the investigation with a recommendation for corrective action.
5. The range of corrective actions for Category 2 offenses may include short-term or long-term suspension.