

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

HUMAN RESOURCES

4315

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Prohibition of Firearms and Other Weapons

It is the policy of the Wausau School District to provide safe, secure, flexible, inviting environments that nurture student well-being and enhance teaching and learning, as well as providing for the safety of all persons on its premises or attending any of its activities or functions.

To aid in maintaining this standard, the District shall strictly enforce a policy that, to the extent permitted by law, limits the possession, use, or storage of firearms and other weapons by students, employees, and other visitors on school property, in or on school vehicles, and at school-related activities. Although the Wisconsin Carrying Concealed Weapon (CCW) Law generally allows individuals with permits to carry concealed weapons in most places, there are specific laws that make such concealed carry illegal when it occurs in or around schools in which education of children occurs and on other property owned or operated by the District.

In support of the above goals, it is the policy of the District that all persons are prohibited from possessing, being armed with, storing, or using a firearm or other weapon, whether unconcealed or concealed, in or on grounds of a school, on school premises, in or on school vehicles, or at school-related activities. This prohibition applies to all students, employees, parents, guardians, and other visitors at all times.

This policy applies to firearms (as that term is defined under Wis. Stat. s. 948.605(1)(ac) and 18 U.S.C. s. 7151(a)(3)), dangerous weapons (as that term is defined under Wis. Stat. s. 948.61(1)(a)), and weapons (as that term is defined under Wis. Stat. s. 175.60(1)(j)), unless state law otherwise specifically restricts the District from prohibiting such weapons. Examples of weapons under this policy include, but are not limited to: guns, knives, tasers, martial arts devices, explosive devices, chemical agents (including pepper spray), biological agents, and clubs.

Any entity that contracts with the District shall ensure the safety of District students by prohibiting, to the extent permitted by law, the possession, carrying, use, or storage of weapons at any building owned by the contractor where the students may be present pursuant to the contract.

All employees are prohibited from possessing or carrying weapons in their employment or during any part of the course of their employment, including on school field trips or during other activities that are not held on school grounds. Individuals who volunteer for any school-related function shall be prohibited from possessing or carrying weapons in the course of their volunteer activities, unless specifically permitted by law.

Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension and/or expulsion from school and/or legal action. Any student who brings a firearm or weapon to a school shall be referred to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system, in accordance with Policy 5715.

Employees found to be in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension and/or termination and/or legal action consistent with any applicable bargaining agreement, work agreement, and employee handbook. Any employee who reasonably believes that an employee, visitor, student, or other person has a firearm or weapon in violation of this policy, must report such belief to his/her supervisor. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Visitors found to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premises and/or be subject to legal action.

The following are exceptions to this policy:

- This prohibition does not apply where any law prohibits the District from restricting any individual's right to possess a firearm or other weapon in a location covered by this policy.
 - Law enforcement officers possessing a firearm or other weapon on school grounds in the line of duty.
 - An off-duty Wisconsin law enforcement officer who meets certain conditions (e.g., is not the subject of any disciplinary action that could result in suspension or loss of the person's law enforcement authority, is not under the influence of an intoxicant, is not carrying a firearm that is a machine gun or an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, and is not carrying a firearm silencer).
 - An out-of-state law enforcement officer who meets certain conditions (e.g., is not the subject of any disciplinary action that could result in suspension or loss of the person's law enforcement authority, is not under the influence of an intoxicant, is not carrying a firearm that is a machine gun or an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, and is not carrying a firearm silencer).
 - A former law enforcement officer who meets certain conditions (e.g., within the preceding 12 months, the former officer met the standards of the state in which he or she resides for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry firearms, the former officer has been issued a photographic identification document by the law enforcement agency from which the officer separated that meets statutory criteria and the firearm is of the type described in the document, the former officer is not under the influence of an intoxicant, is not carrying a firearm that is a machine gun or an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, and is not carrying a firearm silencer).
- The building principal may allow a weapon on school premises for purposes of demonstration or educational presentations. This approval must be in writing and granted prior to the weapon being brought to the school. The weapon shall be maintained in the possession of the principal except during the actual demonstration or presentation.
- Firearms or other weapons used for hunting may be allowed on school property for hunter safety classes, but only during non-school hours and after approval, in writing, from the Superintendent of Schools. The person(s) conducting the hunter safety class will assume responsibility for the safe handling and care of the firearms/weapons, and

ensure that all firearms/weapons are removed from the premises promptly after the class.

- The legal use of firearms for non-hunting purposes such as target and trap shooting may be allowed in designated areas of the School Forest by the District or rental groups with written permission from the Superintendent of Schools.
- The School Forest resident caretaker (an employee of the District) may keep and store his/her firearms in the house he/she resides in at the School Forest. Such firearms may not be used for any unauthorized purposes at the School Forest.

Cross Ref.: Policy 5715 – Weapons

Legal Ref.: Wisconsin Statute 29.301 and 120.13(1)(a), (1)(bm), (1)(c)2m., (1)(g)
Wisconsin Statute 948.60, 948.605, 948.61
U.S.C. § 7151
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

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