

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 54

ADOPTED: June 17, 1999

FILE: JICIA

REVISED: November 21, 2002

REVISED: March 5, 2010; January 20, 2017

WEAPONS, VIOLENCE, AND SCHOOL SAFETY

The School Board believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in a school environment free of violence, threats, bullying, and other disruptive behavior. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board policies, school rules, reasonable unwritten behavior expectations, and applicable state and federal laws.

School staff are required to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct by students to the building administrator for investigation and appropriate action. Students who are subjected to or observe prohibited conduct are strongly encouraged to report it to a staff member.

Prohibited Conduct

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

- A. 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, any other kind of gun, ammunition, explosives, cross-bows, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, chains, clubs, Kung-Fu stars and numchucks;
- B. 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 (e.g., matches, lighters), files, tools of any sort or replicas of weapons (including toys);
- C. Violent, threatening, or menacing behavior, including but not limited to fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property (e.g., verbal or written death threats, threats of bodily harm, bomb threats), stalking, or blocking access to school property or facilities;
- D. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through a computer) which threaten, intimidate, or harass others, which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program, blackmail, extortion, or demand for money or property;

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- E. Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property;
- F. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;

Bullying behavior, including unwanted physical contact, acts or communications by any means per Board policy JICK.

- G. Lewd, indecent or obscene acts or expressions of any kind;
- H. Violations of the school unit's drug/alcohol and tobacco policies;
- I. Violations of state or federal law; and
- J. Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property

Nothing in this policy shall prevent the Board from approving and offering instructional programs that involve firearms or other weapons (such as bows and arrows) or from allowing firearms or other weapons to be brought to school for specific instructional programs (such as archery or hunter safety).

No weapons may be used in instructional programs or brought to school without the prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee and implementation of safeguards appropriate to the particular activity. If a weapon is brought to the school for educational purposes, it must immediately be taken to the office under adult supervision other than the student. The weapon may not be transported on the school bus.

Disciplinary Action

Principals may discipline, suspend and/or recommend expulsion of students who violate this policy based upon 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 within the meaning of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school. Such conduct may also be grounds for expulsion under other provisions of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9 and 9-A) that specifically prohibit the use and possession of weapons, infractions of violence, and possession, furnishing and trafficking of scheduled drugs.

Students 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 Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

All firearm 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 Superintendent.

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Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws/regulations. The Superintendent is authorized to request a psychological evaluation/risk assessment of a student who violates this policy when, in his/her opinion, such an evaluation will assist in assessing the risk the student poses to school safety if the student were to remain in school.

All such evaluations shall be performed at the school's expense. If the parents/guardians and/or student refuse to permit a requested psychological evaluation, the Superintendent and the Board may draw any reasonable inferences from the student's behavior concerning the risk the students poses to school safety for purposes of determining appropriate action.

Legal References: 20 USC § 8921 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994)
20 USC § 7151 (No Child Left Behind Act)
5 MRSA § 4681 et seq.
17-A MRSA § 2(9); 2(12-A)
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9), 1001(9-A), (15); 6552
P.L. 2005, ch. 307

Cross References: ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
EBCA – Crisis Response Plan
JFCK – Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other
Electronic Devices
JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
JK – Student Discipline
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JKF – Suspension/ Expulsion of Students with Disabilities
JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students
KLGA – Relations with School Resource Officers and
Other Law Enforcement authorities