MORRISVILLE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: 200 PUPILS

TITLE: WEAPONS

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 24, 2007

REVISED: MARCH 22, 2017

218.1 WEAPONS

1. Purpose

The Board recognizes and respects the rights of students and staff to learn and work in a safe, nonviolent and nonthreatening environment. The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

2. Definitions 24 P.S. 1301-A 24 P.S. 1317.2

Weapon - the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, brass or metal knuckles, firearm, shotgun, rifle, BB or pellet gun, replica of a **weapon**, chemical agent, explosive device, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

Possession - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; and under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

3. Authority Pol. 218 Pol. 233 22 PA Code 10.23 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq Pol. 103.1 Pol. 113.1 Pol. 113.2

Pol. 805.1

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity or while the student is coming to or from school. All of the above will constitute an offense under this policy. Any student found in possession of weapon, regardless of intent, shall have committed an offense under this policy.

The Board shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law and Board policy. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding

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with local law enforcement and Board policies.

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials and the district's emergency preparedness plan.

3. Designation of Responsibility 24 P.S. 1302.1-A Pol. 805

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

4. Guidelines 24 P.S. 1303-A 22 PA Code 10.2 22 PA Code 10.21 22 PA Code 10.25 22 PA Code 403.1 18 Pa. C.S.A. 912 20 U.S.C. 7114 20 U.S.C. 7151 34 CFR Part 300 18 U.S.C. 921 18 U.S.C. 922

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving possession of a weapon to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.

The building principal, or other designated by the Superintendent, shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the Board policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the school community.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative regulations to be followed.

Transfer Students

When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.

NOTES:

The "replica of a weapon" language in the policy definition of "weapon" is <u>not</u> included in School Code 1301-A or 1317.2; it was included because PSBA and

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solicitors agree that districts may define "weapon" through policy based on their needs—that language was included as a recommendation from a school safety standpoint, since it is often difficult to tell whether a weapon, particularly a gun, is real or a model.