



Adopted: May 27, 2014

Amended: May 22, 2019

501 SCHOOL WEAPONS POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy. Woodbury Leadership Academy will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Weapon"

1. A "weapon" means any object, device or instrument that can be used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage.
2. No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons.

B. "School Location" means all facilities and property, including land, whether owned, rented, or leased by Woodbury Leadership Academy, locations of school activities or trips, bus stops, and all other vehicles owned, leased, rented, contracted for, or controlled by Woodbury Leadership Academy for transporting students, staff, or visitors.

C. "Possession" means having a weapon on one's person.

D. "Non-student" Any person who is not a student including, but not limited to: teachers, other staff, parents, visitors, students of other public or private schools and any person on or in the school location.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

A. A student who finds or discovers a weapon on the way to school or in a school location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the school's main office shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If it would be dangerous to take the weapon to the school's main office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If he or she immediately turns the weapon over to the executive director, teacher or staff member or immediately notifies the executive director, teacher or staff member of the weapon's location.

B. It shall not be a violation of this policy if a nonstudent (or student where specified) falls within one of the following categories:

1. On duty licensed peace officers;
2. military personnel, or students or nonstudents participating in military training, who are on duty performing official duties;
3. persons authorized to carry a pistol under MN Statute. While in a motor vehicle or outside of a motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle;
4. persons who keep or store in a motor vehicle pistols in accordance with MN Statute. or other firearms in accordance with MN Statute;
 - a. MN Statute specifies procedures and standards for obtaining pistol permits and penalties for the failure to do so. MN Statute defines an exception to the pistol permit requirements for "antique firearms which are carried or possessed as curiosities or for their historical significance or value."
 - b. MN Statute generally provides that a firearm may not be transported in a motor vehicle unless it is (1) unloaded and in a gun case without any portion of the firearm exposed; (2) unloaded and in the closed trunk; or (3) a handgun carried in compliance with MN Statute.
5. firearm safety or marksmanship courses or activities for students or nonstudents conducted on school property;
6. possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms by a ceremonial color guard;
7. possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms with written permission of the director.
8. persons who are on unimproved property owned or leased by a child care center, school or school unless the person knows that a student is currently present on the land for a school-related activity.

C. Policy Application to Instructional Equipment/Tools

While Woodbury Leadership Academy takes a firm “Zero Tolerance” position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students, and a similar position with regard to nonstudents, such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students or nonstudents. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use or distribution of weapons. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

D. Firearms in School Parking Lots and Parking Facilities

A school may not prohibit the lawful carry or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility. For purposes of this policy, the “lawful” carry or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to non-student permit-holders authorized under MN Statute to carry a pistol in the interior of a vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle. Any possession or carry of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder’s vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.

V. CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION

A. Woodbury Leadership Academy takes a position of “Zero Tolerance” in regard to the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, using or distributing weapons shall include:

1. immediate out-of-school suspension;
2. confiscation of the weapon;
3. immediate notification of police;
4. parent or guardian notification; and
5. recommendation to the executive director for a period of time not to exceed one year.

B. Pursuant to Minnesota law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school will be expelled for at least one year. The school board may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

C. Administrative Discretion

The executive director may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

VI. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NONSTUDENTS

A. Employees

1. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
2. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school policies.
3. When an employee violates this policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.

B. Other Nonstudents

1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school, that school may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.