

WEAPONS USE/POSSESSION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

PURPOSE:

It shall be the purpose of this policy to establish the expectations of the North Kingstown School Committee in dealing with matters of use/possession of weapons on school property.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee acknowledges the right of all school students, staff and parents to work, learn and conduct approved and appropriate activities in an environment free of unhealthy, unsafe and/or threatening circumstances or conditions. The School Committee considers the use and/or possession of a weapon(s) of any kind or nature, on school grounds, to be a threat to this environment and to be inappropriate, dangerous, and hazardous to the health, safety and well being of the students of the community of North Kingstown. The Committee therefore prohibits said use or possession and sets forth that the existence of said condition shall be considered as a violation of this policy.

CLARIFICATIONS:

1. A weapon shall be defined as any object commonly defined as a weapon, such as a knife, gun or club, but shall also include any other object which could be used as an instrument with intent to do harm to another individual. Further definition and clarification follow.
2. School property shall refer to the physical grounds and buildings owned and operated or utilized by the North Kingstown public schools and/or any other building, grounds, or vehicle which are being officially used by students and staff of the North Kingstown public schools.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The possession, use and/or intended use of item(s) legally classified as a weapon (as defined by Rhode Island State Law) or item(s) otherwise not intended for use as a weapon but possessed, used or made threat of use, shall be considered as constituting a violation of School Committee Policy JICI and shall subject the individual violator(s) to immediate referral to the North Kingstown Police Department and immediate removal from the school environment.

The term of such removal shall be as determined by the building principal in keeping with his/her judgment in regards to the specifics of the incident in which the weapon(s) was displayed, used, found or reported.

EXCEPTION – FIREARMS/REPLICA:

It shall be explicitly understood that possession or the carrying of a firearm or replica of same on school property shall be prohibited and violators shall be subject to expulsion for one full calendar year.

OTHER WEAPONS:

“Other weapons” shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: blackjack, slingshot, billy, sandclub, sandbag, metal knuckles, slap glove, bludgeon, stun-gun, or the so-called “kung-fu” weapons; dagger, dirk, stiletto, sword-in-cane, bowie knife, or other similar weapon designed to cut and/or stab another; razor, or knife of any description having a blade of more than three (3) inches in length measuring from the end of the handle where the blade is attached to the end of the blade.

It shall also be understood that the possession, carrying or use of other items classified as weapons as defined in RI General Laws, Section 11-27-42 is prohibited and violators shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the building principals.

Judgment shall be reflective of the specific weapon involved, circumstances leading to its presence, use or intended use on school property and conditions under which weapon(s) were apprehended.

OTHER OBJECTS USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED AS A WEAPON:

In recognition of the use or potential use of other items, such as scissors, letter opener, sharp tools, compasses, rulers and a sundry of other such daily used tools or instruments found in the classroom which may actively be used, or used to intimidate by way of a threatened use as a weapon, shall be, subject to the judgment of the building principal, considered a violation of this policy.

Appropriately expected action in such cases shall be subject to the full range of disciplinary actions as existing in Administrative Regulations established by the district’s administration and approved by the School Committee.

All instances involving the possession/use/intended use of an item judged by the building administrator to be a weapon (see preceding delineation of weapons defined) shall be reported to the Police Department on a “weapons possession” form completed and placed on file in the Principal’s Office with copy to the Police Department and Superintendent’s Office.

Administrative discretion shall prevail in the making of a judgment as to whether a student’s possession of any item constitutes a violation of this policy.

First Reading: 12/5/01

Second Reading/Adoption: 12/19/01

Amended: 12/11/12

NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

WEAPONS SEIZURE REPORT

School Building _____

Date _____

Student's Name _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

(Street)

(City/State/Zip Code)

Type of Weapon _____

Discovered/Seized by _____

Time/Date of Seizure of Weapon _____

Location of Seizure of Weapon _____

Disposition of Weapon/Date _____

Comments _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Date Reviewed: _____ Reviewer: _____

C: North Kingstown Police Department
Superintendent's Office