

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board, determines that possession and/or use of a weapon by a student is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the school unit. The Board is committed to promoting a “Weapons in School” policy which will institute the applicable requirements of the federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, in addition to pertinent state laws and regulations.

The purpose of the Weapons in Schools policy is to promote a safe environment in which students are free to learn and school personnel are free to work without the detrimental effects of weapons and their adverse effects on discipline and the welfare of the school. This policy shall apply to students, staff and all other persons, at all times on school premises, in any school vehicle, at any school-sponsored activity, or at any time or place if the conduct has an adverse effect on the discipline or welfare of the schools.

This policy prohibits the following conduct:

- A. Possession and/or use of articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to intimidate, coerce or harass persons. Examples of such articles include but are not limited to the following: firearms, ammunitions, explosives, cross-bows, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, chains, clubs, Kung Fu stars and nunchucks; and
- B. Use of any object as a weapon, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict or threaten bodily harm and/or to intimidate, coerce or harass. Examples of such articles include: bats, belts, picks, pencils, scissors, compasses, objects capable of ignition (e.g. match, lighter), files, tools of any sort and replicas of weapons including some toys).

As authorized by both Title 20-A, MRSA § 1001 (9-A) and the federal Gun-Free School Act of 1994, students who are found to have brought a firearm, as defined in 18 USCA § 921 et. Seq. to school shall be expelled by the School Board for a period of not less than one year and referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

As further authorized by law, the Executive Director, as chief administering officer, may exercise his/her discretion to modify this

expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. In the event the Executive Director exercises such discretion, he/she shall, as soon as practicable, generate a confidential report to the school regarding such a modification.

The Executive Director shall be responsible for the development and execution of appropriate administrative procedures to implement relevant law, Board policy and good practice consistent with federal regulations from time to time he/she may deem necessary.

Legal Reference: 20-USCA § 8921 (Gun Free Schools Act of 1994)
20-A MRSA §§ 1001.9; 1001 (9-A); 6552
17-A MRSA §§ 2.9; 2.12, A

Adopted: July 10, 1997

Edited for school name and administrator title: January 2014