

## **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 and 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/designee. The building administrator/designee will investigate reported incidents and take appropriate action.

### **I. Prohibited Conduct**

Students, staff and all other persons 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, crossbows, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, chains, clubs, throwing stars and nunchukus;
- 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 and replicas of weapons (including toys);
- C. Violent or threatening 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);
- 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;
- E. Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property;
- F. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;
- 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 laws; and
- J. Any other conduct that may directly interfere with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

## II. Disciplinary Action

Principals may 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 or to have possessed a firearm at a school (as both terms are defined by federal law) shall be expelled for a period of time of not less than one year. The expulsion may be modified by petition of the Superintendent to the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis in writing. All firearms 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.

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws/ regulations and Board policy JKF.

## III. Alternative Conflict Resolution

To reduce potential violence in the schools, the Superintendent will be responsible for developing procedures for implementing programs of information, prevention and intervention in violent circumstances.

## IV. Psychological Evaluation/Risk Assessment

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to request an immediate psychological evaluation of a student who engages in conduct prohibited by 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.

The Superintendent is also authorized to request psychological evaluations of students who have been identified as posing a substantial risk of violent behavior.

All such evaluations shall be performed at the school unit's expense.

If the parents/guardians and/or student refuse to permit a requested psychological evaluation, the Superintendent and the Board will base their decisions on the available evidence concerning the risk the student poses to school safety for purposes of determining appropriate action.

Legal References: 20 USCA § 8921 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) 5 MRSA § 4681 et. Seq.  
17-A MRSA §§ 2 (9); 2 (12-A)  
20-A MRSA §§ 1001 (9); (9-A); 1055 (11); 6552  
20 U.S.C. § 7151 (No Child Left Behind Act)

Cross References: ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students  
ACAA Regulation Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure  
ACAD Hazing  
ADC Tobacco Use and Possession  
EBCA Regulation Tobacco Use and Possession  
EBCA Crisis Response Plan  
EBCC Bomb Threat  
IJNDB Student Computer and Internet Use  
IJNDB Regulation Student Computer and Internet Use Rules  
JGF Time-out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint  
JGF Regulation Therapeutic Restraint  
JIC System-wide Student Code of Conduct  
JICA Student Dress Code  
JICB Care of School Property by Students  
JICC Student Conduct on Buses  
JICFB Bullying  
JICH Drug and Alcohol Use by Students  
JIH Questioning and Searches of Students  
JIH Regulation Questioning and Searches of Students Administrative Procedure  
JK Student Discipline  
JKD Suspension of Students  
JKD Regulation Administrative Procedure for Student Suspensions  
JKE Expulsion of Students  
JKE Regulation Expulsion of Students Guidelines  
JKF Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities  
JKF Regulation Administrative Procedure for Removal of Students with Disabilities  
JIH Questioning and Searches of Students  
KLG Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities  
KLG Regulation Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities Administrative Procedure

First Reading:	May 10, 1999
Second Reading:	June 14, 1999
Adopted:	June 14, 1999
Amended:	March 8, 2004