



Renaissance Academy

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SECTION: Pupils
TITLE: Weapons & Dangerous
Instruments
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Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

1 PURPOSE

The Renaissance Academy Board of School Trustees joins in the PA General Assembly and the U.S. Congress in expressing grave concern about the culture of violence and fear that is arising in our public schools. All students, teachers and school staff have the right to teach and learn together in an environment free from the threat of violence and injury. The Renaissance Board adopts this policy with the intent to implement in full the requirements of state and federal laws concerning the possession, handling or transmission of weapons on school premises, at any school sponsored activities, or on any public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school sponsored activity. The Board does not intend this policy to expand any right or responsibility of any party beyond those requirements its students and employees.

2 AUTHORITY

A student shall not knowingly possess, handle or transmit any object that is or can reasonably be considered a weapon or facsimile weapon on school premises, at any school sponsored activities, or on any public conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school sponsored activity.

Any student determined to have possessed, handled, or transmitted a facsimile weapon onto school premises, at any school-sponsored activity shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year. The Principal may, however, recommend a lesser discipline on a case-by-case basis and shall state his/her reasons therefore in writing.

Any student determined to have possessed, handled, or transmitted a facsimile weapon onto school premises, at any school sponsored activities, or on any public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school sponsored activity shall also be subject to discipline which may include any sanction up to and including expulsion from school.

The Principal shall, in the case of an exceptional student, take all steps to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Act, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the American with Disabilities Act

3 DEFINITIONS

Weapon- The term weapon shall include, but not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchakus, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily harm.

Facsimile Weapon- The term facsimile weapon shall include all instruments or implements resembling or intended to resemble a weapon.

Possessing - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; 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, while the student is coming to or from school, or in a student's vehicle while on school property.

SC1317.2(a)

4 DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Reporting Requirements

The principal or designee shall report the discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy to the local law enforcement officials.

The Principal or designee may report the discovery of any facsimile weapon prohibited by this policy to the LEA's School Board.

The Principal or designee shall report to the Police Department of all incidents relating to the expulsions for possession of a weapon on school grounds, at school sponsored activities or on public or private conveyances providing transportation to and from all school or school-sponsored activities. Reports shall include information as may be required by the Department of Office for Safe Schools.

In the case of a student with disabilities, the Principal or designee shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

20 U.S.C Sec. 1400 et seq

5 GUIDELINES

An exception to this policy may be made by the Principal, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Trade related tools used specifically for instructional purposes shall not be identified as weapons, provided they are used for the intended trade related purpose as determined by certified personnel.

Transportation of trade related tools, both to and from school, is the responsibility of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). Under no condition are students to transport trade related tools which may be construed as weapons as described in this policy.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

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

18 U.S.C. Sec. 921, 922 SC 1317.2