

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

I. Generally

Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing any firearm, dangerous device, or dangerous or deadly weapon in the school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity without the authorization of the school is prohibited, and is grounds for disciplinary action.

A student who has possessed a firearm on school property or at a school-sponsored activity as prohibited by Va. Code § 18.2-308.1 or who has possessed a firearm or destructive device as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-277.07 or a firearm muffler or firearm silencer or a pneumatic gun as defined in Va. Code § 15.2-915.4 on school property or at a school-sponsored activity may be expelled for at least one year in accordance with Policy 8090 Student Suspension/Expulsion. The Regional School Board may determine, based on the facts of a particular situation that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action or another disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. The Regional School Board may promulgate guidelines for determining what constitutes special circumstances. In addition, the Regional School Board may, by regulation, authorize the executive director or his/her designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. Disciplinary proceedings for violation of this policy will be initiated promptly.

Such weapons include, but are not limited to:

- any pistol, shotgun, stun weapon, revolver, or other firearm listed in Va. Code § 22.1-277.07, designed or intended to propel a projectile of any kind, including a rifle,
- unloaded firearms in closed containers,
- any air rifle or BB gun,
- toy guns and look-alike guns,
- any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade or stiletto knife, ballistic knife, machete, knife or razor,
- slingshots or slingbows,
- spring sticks,
- brass or metal knuckles, blackjacks,
- any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain,
- any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades, and which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart,
- explosives, and

- destructive devices as defined in section 22.1-277.07(E), of the Code of Virginia, or other dangerous articles.

II. Expulsion for Possession of Firearms

A student who has possessed a firearm on school property, school buses, or at a school-sponsored activity as prohibited by Va. Code § 18.2-308.1 or who has possessed a firearm or destructive device as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-277.07, or a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or a pneumatic gun as defined in Va. Code § 15.2915.4 on school property or at a school-sponsored activity may be expelled for at least one year in accordance with Policy 8090 Student Suspension/Expulsion.

The Regional School Board may determine, based on the facts of a particular situation, that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action or another disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. The Regional School Board may promulgate guidelines for determining what constitutes special circumstances. The Regional School Board authorizes the executive director or the executive director's designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. If it is determined by the executive director or the executive director's designee that a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate, such disciplinary action is taken in accordance with Article 3 of Chapter 14 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia.

III. Students with Disabilities

- A. Students with disabilities are subject to the provisions of Section I of this policy and may be disciplined to the same extent as a nondisabled student provided the manifestation review committee determines that the violation was not a manifestation of the student's disability.
- B. Additional authority to remove a student with a disability from school for a weapons violation.
 1. In addition to the authority granted in subsection A above, a student with a disability may also be removed without parent consent and assigned to an interim alternative education program by school personnel for not more than forty-five (45) school days when the student carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local educational agency. This option is available regardless of whether a manifestation exists. The removal should not be in excess of any removal imposed on a student without a disability for the same offense.
 2. For purposes of this forty-five (45) school day removal, the weapon must meet the following definition:

“a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except

that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length.”

Adopted: September 17, 2015
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Amended: September 18, 2025

Legal Refs.: 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2).

20 U.S.C. § 1415(k)(1)(G)(i).

Code of Virginia, §§18.2-308, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7, 22.1-277.07, 277.07:1.

Wood v. Henry County Public Schools, 255 Va. 85, 495 S.E.2d 255 (1998).

Cross Refs.:
Pol 2020 School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan
Pol 2023 Threat Assessment Teams
Pol 5089 Staff Weapons in School
Pol 8002 Student Conduct
Pol 8009 Student Conduct on School Buses
Pol 8029 Search and Seizure
Pol 8033 Weapons In School
Pol 8090 Student Suspension/Expulsion