



Stratford Public Schools

Policy 5131.7 – Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

The Board of Education determines that possession, concealment, and/or use of a weapon by a student is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the district. Possession and/or use of any dangerous weapon, firearm, or destructive device in any school building on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity **is prohibited**.

Such weapons include but are not limited to any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun or *home-made gun*; slingshot; bludgeon; brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind; knives having a blade of greater than two inches, any knife the blades of which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, or any pocketknife where the blade is carried in a partially opened position; martial arts weapon; destructive device.

A “dangerous weapon” is any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used is readily capable of causing death or serious injury. A "deadly weapon" is any instrument, article or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious injury.

Pursuant to federal law, the term firearm includes, but is not limited to, any weapon designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or destructive device. A student who violates this policy will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

A "destructive device" is considered any device with an explosive, incendiary or poison gas component or any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A destructive device does not include any device which is designed primarily for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety or similar device.

The possession or use of any such weapon or devices *shall* require that the proceedings for the suspension and/or expulsion of the student involved *shall* be



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initiated immediately by the principal. If the student is found to have possessed a firearm or other dangerous weapon as defined in Connecticut General Statutes [53a-3](#) in violation of [29-35](#) or [53-206](#), in or on the real property of a school or at any school activity as defined in Connecticut General Statutes [10-233a](#), he/she *shall* be expelled for one calendar year. The Board of Education or hearing board may modify the period of expulsion on a case by case basis. To comply with federal law, any finding of an exception shall be reduced to writing. All legal restrictions and requirements will be adhered to pertaining to special education students.

The Board shall consider a student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process or is violative of publicized policies of the Board as grounds for expulsion.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted. The Superintendent (**in conjunction with the Chief of Police**) may authorize other persons to possess weapons for courses, programs and activities approved by the District and conducted on District property.

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in a school zone is prohibited. A "school zone" is defined by federal law, means in/on school grounds or within 1,000 feet of school grounds.

"Gun-Free School Zone" signs will/may be posted in cooperation with city/town officials as appropriate. Violations, unless otherwise excepted by law or this policy, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(cf. [5114](#) - Suspension/Expulsion)

(cf. [5145.12](#) – Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

[10-233a](#) through [10-233f](#) - Expulsion as amended by PA 95-304

[53a-3](#) Definitions.

[53a-217b](#) - Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds



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[53-206](#) Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, 18 U.S.C. §§ 921(a)(25)-(26), 922(q) (2006)

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

20 U.S.C. §7961, The Gun-Free School Act, 8561 of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Youth Handgun Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(x), 924(a)(6) (2006)

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7117