

**Policy JFCJ: WEAPONS IN SCHOOL**

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 10/14/1996 | Last Revised Date: 04/09/2001

**25D UPDATE EXPLANATION**

MSBA has updated this policy to comply with Senate Bill 68 (2025), which requires school districts to regularly report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education all school safety incidents and credible school safety threats that involve a firearm, explosive, knife, or other weapon as defined in § 571.010, RSMo. (See § 160.664, RSMo.)

MSBA has also removed the provision about district storage of student firearms because districts are not required by law to provide storage, and many districts have removed this language.

MSBA made additional changes to better differentiate between weapons as defined and prohibited by the Missouri Safe Schools Act and those weapons that fall outside this Act. The Missouri Safe Schools Act requires districts to have a policy that states that students in possession of specific weapons will be suspended for at least one year or expelled. The superintendent may modify this consequence on a case-by-case basis, but the policy must state that expulsion or a one-year suspension is the consequence.

The district has more discretion to assign a consequence if the weapon does not fall under the definition of a weapon in the Missouri Safe Schools Act. For that reason, MSBA has separated out these weapons into the "Other Prohibited Weapons" section of the policy. Districts should look closely at this section to ensure that this language aligns with the district's current practices and the contents of any handbook. For instance, the Safe Schools Act prohibits pocketknives with a blade of four inches or less. MSBA's language in this policy prohibits all knives, even pocketknives. If your district allows students to bring a small pocketknife to school, this language will need to be modified. Weapons that fall into the "other" category include chemical mace and pepper spray, stun guns, paintball guns, and toys that are modified to look like real guns.

The board recognizes the importance of preserving a safe educational environment is essential for students, employees, and patrons of the district. In order to maintain the safety of the educational community, the district will strictly enforce the necessary disciplinary consequences resulting from the use or possession of weapons on school property. No student, employee or patron, excluding law enforcement authorities, may possess a weapon on school property at any time, except as specifically authorized during a school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activity permitting weapons.

The district prohibits weapons on district property unless allowed by this policy or specifically authorized during a school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activity permitting weapons.

**Definitions**

School property is defined as: *School or District Property* - Property utilized, supervised, owned, rented, leased, or controlled by the school district including, but not limited to, school playgrounds, parking lots, and school buses transportation, and any property on which any school activity takes place.

**Weapons Prohibited under the Missouri Safe Schools Act**

A weapon is defined to mean one or more of the following: Missouri law prohibits students from possessing the following weapons on school property:

1. A firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921.
2. A blackjack, concealable firearm, firearm, firearm silencer, explosive weapon, gas gun, knife, knuckles, machine gun, projectile weapon, rifle, shotgun, spring gun, and switchblade knife, as these terms are defined in § 571.010, RSMo.
3. A dangerous weapon as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2).
4. All knives and any other instrument or device used or designed to be used to threaten or assault, whether for attack or defense.

5. Any object designed to look like or imitate a device as described in 1-4.

Pursuant to the Missouri Safe Schools Act and the federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, any student who brings or possesses a weapon as defined in #1 or #2 above. Students who bring or possess these weapons on school property or at any school activity will be suspended from school for at least one calendar year or expelled, and the incident will be referred reported to the appropriate legal authorities law enforcement, as required by law. The superintendent may modify the suspension or expulsion may be modified on a case-by-case basis upon recommendation by the superintendent to the board of education. Students who are suspended under this provision may be educated in an alternative school.

### Other Prohibited Weapons

Students who bring or possess weapons as defined in #3, #4 and #5 and not otherwise included in #1 and #2, may also be subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school and may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities. In addition to the weapons prohibited by state law as described above, the district also prohibits weapons that fall into one of the following categories unless a student is given explicit permission by the superintendent or designee:

1. A dangerous weapon as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2), which includes instruments that are used for or are readily capable of causing death or serious injury.
2. All knives, including all pocketknives.
3. Any other instrument or device used or designed to be used to threaten or assault, whether for attack or defense.
4. Any object designed to look like or imitate a weapon as defined in this policy unless specifically authorized by the principal for an educational purpose.
5. Ammunition or components of a prohibited weapon.

Students who bring or possess these weapons on school property will be disciplined in accordance with the relevant student discipline code. The district may report the incident to law enforcement when appropriate or required by law.

Students with disabilities who violate this policy will be disciplined in accordance with policy JGE. This policy will be submitted annually to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education along with a report indicating any suspensions or expulsions resulting from the possession or use of a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921. The report will include the name of the school in which the incidents occurred, the number of students suspended or expelled and the types of weapons involved.

### Reporting

The district will report all school safety incidents and credible school safety threats that involve a firearm, explosive, knife, or other weapon defined in § 571.010, RSMo., to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and will make other reports as required by law.

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**Policy Reference Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
§ 160.261, RSMo.	<a href="#">State Statute</a>
§ 160.664, RSMo.	<a href="#">State Statute</a>
§ 167.117, RSMo.	<a href="#">State Statute</a>

**State**

§ 571.010, RSMo.

§ 571.030, RSMo.

**Federal**

18 U.S.C. § 921

18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2)

20 U.S.C. § 1400-1417

**Cross References**

ECA-1

ECA-1-AP(1)

**Description**

[State Statute](#)

[State Statute](#)

**Description**

[Federal Statute](#)

[Federal Statute](#)

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

**Description**

[BUILDING AND GROUNDS SECURITY](#)

[BUILDING AND GROUNDS SECURITY](#)