



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (LCPS)
2016-2017

STUDENT and PARENT WEAPONS ALERT

- Students are prohibited from possessing any weapons on school property or while under the control or supervision of school personnel.
- Weapons include knives, B-B guns, Airsoft guns, and fireworks.
- Students who possess weapons may be expelled (removed from school for a minimum of one year – possibly permanently) and will be reported to law enforcement.
- The LCPS Weapons Policy is printed below and on the reverse side of this form. Please read the policy and discuss it with your child. If you have any questions, contact your school's principal.

Students – 2016-2017

STUDENT CONDUCT

§8-32 Weapons

Possession or use of a weapon, loaded or unloaded, operable or inoperable, by a student while under the control or supervision of school system personnel, at a school-sponsored activity, or on school property is prohibited. This policy is applicable to students at all grade levels. The term "weapon" is intended to be construed broadly and includes any instrument or device which, by its design or use, is capable of causing injury, harm, or threat of injury or harm to the physical well-being of another person, as largely defined within both federal and state law. For the purposes of determining appropriate penalties for violations of this policy, "weapons" are classified as either Category A or Category B, except under specified circumstances.

A. Category A:

1. Firearms, starter guns or any weapon that is designed or can be readily converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosion. Examples of firearms would include any pistol, shotgun, rifle, or revolver;
2. Pneumatic guns, including a paintball gun, BB or pellet gun, or air rifle that use pneumatic pressure to expel a projectile; and
3. Explosive or incendiary devices, including those containing poison gas, acid or in the form of a grenade, rocket or bomb and any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device. "Destructive device" does not include any device that is not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon, or any device originally designed for use as a weapon and that is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety, or other similar device.

B. Category B:

1. Any knife or other instrument or device that has a blade designed to cut or a point designed to penetrate, including a dirk, Bowie knife, switchblade, folding knife, ballistic knife, or machete;
2. Any gun or device designed to expel a projectile by any non-pneumatic or non-explosive action, including those using trigger, battery power or tension action. Examples include slingshots, bows, nail guns and toy shooting devices;

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§8-32 Weapons (continued)

3. A stun weapon of any kind;
4. Any club, baton, stick, flailing or thrown instrument or other similar device designed for use as a weapon, such as a blackjack, spring stick, brass or metal knuckles, nunchahka (nun chuck or nunchaku), fighting chain, shurken, throwing star or oriental dart;
5. Any chemical or chemical compound, including pepper spray, that produces an adverse effect on the normal functions of the human body;
6. Any instrument or device that is actually used intentionally to injure, harm, endanger or induce fear in another person, including "toy" or "look-alike" weapons; and
7. Any instrument or device, not included in Category A, which has as one of its designed purposes to be used as a weapon to injure, harm, or endanger another person.

C. Exceptions to Weapons Classifications:

The following weapon or weapons may be exempted from those categorized above, depending on the appropriateness of their use and provided that such weapons are authorized by a school official:

1. Those that are specifically a part of the school's curriculum or activities or any organization authorized by the school to conduct its programs;
2. Those tools, such as a knife, customarily used for food preparation or service and is being used for such purpose; or
3. Those used within the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program in conducting marksmanship training when such training is a normal element of such programs; such programs may include training in the use of pneumatic guns. Such marksmanship training shall occur only at a location or locations approved by the Division Superintendent.

D. Penalties for Violation:

1. **Category A Weapons Violation:** Any student who violates this policy with respect to a Category A weapon shall be automatically recommended for expulsion from Loudoun County Public Schools by the Principal and disciplined according to Policy §8-28. In accordance with that policy, however, the Principal may indicate special circumstances that may exist and therefore also recommend an alternative disciplinary action be considered. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall determine if special circumstances exist and may determine that the recommended disciplinary action is appropriate, or if special circumstances are found not to exist, proceed with the expulsion recommendation in accordance with Policy §8-28.
2. **Category B Weapons Violation:** Any student who violates this policy with respect to a Category B weapon or any other terms of this policy may be subject to expulsion from Loudoun County Public Schools, or to such lesser disciplinary action, including long-term suspension, as may be deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee in accordance with Policy §8-28.
3. **Safe Harbor Provision:** The accidental or inadvertent possession of a weapon by a student, either brought onto or found on school property or at a school-sponsored activity shall not constitute a violation of this policy, provided the student immediately reports the same to a teacher or administrator upon discovery thereof by such student and before it is discovered or seen by a teacher, administrator or other school employee or by another student.
4. **Reporting to Law Enforcement:** Notwithstanding the foregoing, there may be a requirement to report such possession to law enforcement officials as provided in state law.
5. **Right of Appeal:** Certain disciplinary actions for violations of this policy are appealable to or must be formally determined by a Committee of the School Board as provided in Policy §8-28.

Legal Reference: Va. Code §§ 22.1-277.07, 18.2-308.1

Adopted: 5/10/83

Revised: 9/8/92, 10/12/93, 6/23/98, 9/14/99, 2/8/00, 10/14/03, 2/26/08, 5/25/10, 10/28/14

Current Revision: 07/01/16