

WEAPONS POSSESSION AND PROSECUTION  
POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR USE  
OF METAL DETECTORSDate: October 23, 2007

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In accordance with the provisions of the Columbia County Board of Education policy and State Law O.C.G.A. #16-11-127.1, it shall be unlawful for any person to carry, to possess, or to have under such person's control while at a school building, a school function, on school property, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school or school district any weapons as hereafter defined.

## A. DEFINITIONS

Students and other persons are prohibited from carrying, possessing, or having under their control the weapons listed below at a school building, school function or school property, at school sponsored events, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school or school district.

## 1. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. # 16-11-127.1:

- A. Any pistol, revolver, or any other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind;
- B. Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, or any knife having a blade of two or more inches. The Columbia County School System Code of Conduct disallows the possession, use, or intention to use any type of knife, including a pocket or penknife, to inflict harm on another person, or to intimidate any person, regardless of the length of the knife blade;
- C. Any type razor(s), box cutter, spring stick, metal knucks or blackjack;
- D. Any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a way to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chuck, fighting chain, throwing star, or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind;
- E. Any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon; or
- F. Any other weapon defined under O.C.G.A. # 16-11-127.1

B. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND REPORTING

Students violating this weapons policy shall be subject to the following disciplinary measures:

1. Legal Action

In accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-1184, a report will be made to the Superintendent, the appropriate police authority, and the District Attorney.

2. Administrative Action

In addition to the action specified in Section "B.1" above, the principal has the responsibility to take administrative disciplinary action, pursuant to the requirements and regulations provided in the system's Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to Section III.1. Students violating Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, as it pertains to weapons, will be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. In cases where there are extreme mitigating circumstances, the Superintendent is authorized to modify the required disciplinary action.

C. AUTHORIZED IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

In the enforcement of these regulations, principals may authorize the following:

1. Unannounced inspections of students' desks and lockers, which although provided for the use of the students, remain the property of the Columbia County Board of Education. This does not diminish a student's expectation of privacy as it applies to book bags, purses, and other personal property, subject to the right to search or inspect when reasonable suspicion exists.
2. Inspections of students' automobiles driven to school and parked on school property, where reasonable suspicion of a violation of policy or regulation exists.
3. Inspections of the contents of pockets and/or purses when the principal has reasonable suspicion or law enforcement officials have reasonable cause to suspect the student of being in violation of this or other applicable policies or regulations.

D. EDUCATIONAL MEASURES AIMED AT THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

Each school shall undertake activities designed to develop a school-wide acceptance of desirable behavior standards particularly as they relate to weapons.

1. Notices as required by O.C.G.A. #16-11-127.1 shall be posted prominently in all schools as information and as a warning.
2. Hopefully, all students will feel a school citizenship responsibility to report violation.
3. Schools are encouraged to use special student committees to help establish a climate of responsible behavior at schools and at all school sponsored events.

E. USE OF METAL DETECTORS

Use of a hand-held metal detector to search a student is permitted where there is reasonable suspicion that the student possesses a weapon of any kind or in dealing with a student who has exhibited a predisposition to violent behavior or the use of force.

Administrators are authorized to use metal detectors only when they are able to clearly articulate reasons why particular students are required to submit to the search by metal detector. Under no circumstances may students be singled out for metal detector search based upon factors involving race, ethnic background, or emotional or behavioral disabilities.

Periodic **metal detector checks** may be conducted at any and all points of ingress and egress within the school complex.

LEGAL REF.: T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325, 83 L.Ed.2d 720 (1985); In re Gault, 87 S.Ct. 1428 (1967); Tinker v. Des Moines, 393 U.S. 503 (1969); Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968); Nugent v. Shepherd, 318 F.Supp. 314 (1970); State v. Young, 234 Ga. 488 1975, rev'g. 132 Ga. App. 790 (1974); O.C.G.A., 16-7-21(b); 16-10-24; 17-4-3; 17-4-20(a); 19-7-5

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 07/22/97

REVISED: 01/13/98, 08/10/99, 7/27/04

Columbia County Board of Education