
Weapons

It is the policy of the Meriwether County Board of Education that a student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or 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, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.
3. Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion. The Superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment. Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the board of education, the board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.

Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as specified in the student code of conduct.

Reporting Requirements

All employees must report violations of this policy to the principal or assistant principal of the school. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney.

The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons.

Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to weapons and possible disciplinary actions.

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.

Note: *The State of Georgia has moved the Georgia Code. This new environment no longer allows us to link directly to the Georgia Code. For example [enter 20-02-0211 in the search window](#) and the Georgia Code will appear.*

State Reference	Description
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0751.1	Expulsion policy for students bringing weapons to school
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0751.5	Required provisions for student code of conduct
O.C.G.A. 15-11-0602	Disposition of class A or class B designated felony act
O.C.G.A. 16-11-0106	Possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crimes
O.C.G.A. 16-11-0127	Carrying deadly weapons to or at public gatherings
O.C.G.A. 16-11-0127.1	Carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions or on school property
O.C.G.A. 16-11-0129	License to carry pistol or revolver; temporary renewal permit
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0751	Expulsion/Suspension definitions
O.C.G.A. 35-08-0002	Employment and training of peace officers - definitions
O.C.G.A. 43-38-0010	Permits to carry firearms
Rule 160-4-3-.10	Eye Protection
Rule 160-4-8-.15	Student Discipline
Federal Reference	Description
20 USC 7151	Gun-free requirements
18 USC 921	Definitions