

Consequences for Weapon Possession

As parents and students peruse the Code of Conduct for the Allen Park Public Schools, they will note the various disciplinary measures with sanctions. The state law *requires* a Board of Education to *permanently expel* a student found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon in a weapon free school zone, or commits arson or criminal sexual conduct in a school building or on school grounds.

- Specifically, the term “dangerous weapon” means a firearm, dirk, dagger, stiletto, iron bar, knife with a blade over 3 inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, and brass knuckles [(MCL 380.1313 (4)].
- We strongly encourage parents and students to become familiar with District policies and what the State of Michigan considers to be a “dangerous weapon.” What some may consider as nothing more than an “innocent” pocket knife, the administration and Board of Education is *required* to consider it to be a “dangerous weapon.”
- Please remember that weapons can mean more than knives and guns. Children are naturally curious, and most love to be able to show off a unique novelty to their friends. However, unique things such as bullets, throwing stars, arrows, and the like, can be considered weapons.
- In some instances, parents do not realize that their child has even brought these things to school in their backpack, and are completely shocked when called by the school about weapons.

The best answer to this problem is to be preventive with your student. Sit down with your student and talk about why it is not something that should be brought to school. Prevention is certainly the most effective measure we all have against violence in schools. **By speaking to your children openly and honestly about weapons and safety, your student is less likely to become caught up in a problem at school which could result in permanent expulsion.**

Working together is important to keep all of our children safe. Please do not hesitate to contact your building principal for additional information.