

**PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS****WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS POLICY**

The Plainfield Board of Education recognizes that possession and/or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument by a student is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and the staff within the school district. Possession and/or use of any weapon or dangerous instrument in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school sponsored or approved activity, is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, “weapon” and “dangerous instrument” include, but are not limited to, any: pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun, spring gun, slingshot, bludgeon, artificial knuckles, knife, chemical weapon, explosive device, “stun” gun, or other electric shock producing device, any device having a sharp point or edge, such as an ice pick or razor, and any other similarly dangerous instrument capable of inflicting injury.

Possession of an instrument that might otherwise be considered a “dangerous instrument” such as a baseball bat, tool or laboratory device, is permitted if such instrument is in a student’s possession because, and to the extent that, such instrument is necessary for the student to participate in an approved school program, extra curricular activity, science fair or other similar event.

Whenever a school administrator has a reasonable suspicion that a student is in possession of a weapon or dangerous instrument, such administrator is authorized to conduct an unannounced inspection of such student’s locker, desk, vehicle parked on school property, the pockets of the student’s clothing, an/or any purse, gym bag or other receptacle belonging to or under the control of the student. Any search by an administrator must be reasonable related to the objectives of the search, and must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student. A student found to have in his/her possession any weapon or dangerous instrument will have that item confiscated, and will be subjected to school discipline, which may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

In any case in which there is a possible violation of a criminal law which relates to the possession and/or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument, the school administration will work cooperatively with police, prosecutors and other law enforcement authorities.

Students and staff will be provided with a written copy of this policy annually. Any teacher, employee, student, parent, school volunteer, or other member of the school community who reasonably believes that a student is in violation of this policy, should refer the matter to the building administrator or other appropriate administrator in charge.

Proposed: 1/13/94  
Adopted: 2/10/94