

Raglan Area School - WEAPONS POLICY

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public. It provides for clear understanding of intent, expectations, and parameters for students and non-students alike. It also provides for strict rules of enforcement and consequences for weapons violation in cooperation with law enforcement authorities.

Policy Statement

No student or non-student, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school building or on a school location. Raglan Area School will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

DEFINITIONS

A. “Weapon”

- A “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; fake (facsimile) weapons; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
- No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or nonfunctional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
- No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

B. “School Location”

- Any school building or site on the school grounds, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the School Board, locations of school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles;
- The area of entrance or departure from school premises or events;
- All locations where school-related functions are conducted, including school-related child care centers; and
- Anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of Raglan Area School.

C. "Non-student"

Any person who is not a student including, but not limited to: teachers, other staff, parents, visitors, students of other schools and any person on or in the school location.

D. "Possession"

This means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location.

EXCEPTIONS

- A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in a school location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the principal's office shall not be considered to possess a weapon.
- If it would be impractical or dangerous to take the weapon to the principal's office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon if he or she immediately turns control of the weapon over to a school adult, teacher or coach or immediately notifies a school adult, teacher or coach of the weapon's location.
- Any person receiving a weapon during the process of administering this procedure will be exempt from a violation of the procedure.

CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY STUDENTS

Raglan Area School has established a position of "Zero Tolerance" in regard to the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, using or distributing weapons shall include:

1. Immediate out-of-school stand down or suspension (dependent on the context);
2. Confiscation of the weapon;
3. Immediate notification of police; and
4. Parent or guardian notification as soon as is practical.

The School Board may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NON STUDENTS

A. Employees

1. Employees are prohibited from carrying or possessing firearms in school buildings or on school property, while acting in the course and scope of employment.
2. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the School Board.
3. Sanctions against employees, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and School policies.
4. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.

B. Other Non-students

1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school, that school may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location

Raglan Area School Values

- **Manaakitanga:** We are respectful, kind and empathetic.
- **Whanaungatanga:** We are inclusive and connect genuinely with others.
- **Kaitiakitanga:** We are caretakers of Te Ao Maaori and our world.
- **Poutama:** We are resilient and aspire to excellence.

Reviewed: Nov 2023

Next review: Nov 2026

Signed Presiding Member:

Date:
