218.1.  WEAPONS

1. Purpose
The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

2. Definitions
The term school property means all buildings, facilities, and grounds on the school campus, school buses and other conveyances providing transportation to or from school or school-related functions or activities, school parking areas, and any facility being used for a school function or activity.

The term school zone means in, or on the grounds of a public, parochial or private school, or within a distance of one thousand (1,000) feet from the grounds of a public, parochial or private school.

The term weapons shall include, but not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku (stick), metal knuckles, poisons, drugs, ammunition, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of or designed to harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents and patrons of the District.

The term firearm means any instrument which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel and projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such instrument; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device.

The term destructive device means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including, but not limited to, any bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, or device similar to any of the aforementioned instruments.

The term possessing means a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; under the student's control while s/he is on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school; or while the student is on his/her way to or from school.
### 3. Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC 1317.2</th>
<th>The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district building, onto school property, to any school sponsored activity, and onto any public conveyance providing transportation to school or a school sponsored activity.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC 1317.2</td>
<td>The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Violations of this policy shall be immediately reported by the principal/assistant principal to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for investigation of violations of and possible prosecution under the Federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 and/or the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. Notwithstanding referrals of violations to law enforcement agencies, the school officials are authorized to conduct investigations relating to disciplinary action for violations of this policy and further authorized to take any immediate actions required to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the school community.

### 4. Delegation of Responsibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq</th>
<th>In the case of a student with disabilities, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC 1317.2</td>
<td>The Superintendent’s designee, the principal or assistant principal of the building, shall report the discovery of any weapons prohibited by this policy to the student’s parents/legal guardians and to local enforcement officials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 1317.2</td>
<td>When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment may not exceed the expulsion period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 1303-A</td>
<td>The Superintendent shall report all incidents relating to expulsions for possession of a weapon on school grounds to the Department of Education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SC 1303-A</td>
<td>The Superintendent or a designee shall take the necessary actions to develop a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials that sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident occurs involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person on school property.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SC 1303-A | Acts of violence or possession of a weapon on school property in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

Any violation of this policy shall result in an administrative recommendation to the Board of School Directors for expulsion from the schools of the Spring-Ford Area School District for a period of not less than one (1) year, subject to the review of the Superintendent of Schools, on a case-by-case basis, and fulfillment of all due process requirements under the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, and the implementing regulations of the State Board of Education.

Weapons under the control of authorized law enforcement personnel shall be permitted on school property and within a school zone. The Superintendent of Schools may authorize other persons to possess weapons on school property or within a school zone subject to special conditions or procedures as prescribed by the Board of Education.

5. Guidelines

Students and staff shall be informed concerning this policy at least annually.

RELATED POLICIES

113.1 Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities
123 Interscholastic Athletics
218 Student Discipline
   Terroristic Threats
226 Locker Search
227 Drug Abuse
233 Suspension and Expulsion

School Code
1303-A, 1317.2

PA Code
Title 22
Sec. 403.1

20 U.S.C.
Sec. 1400 et seq

18 U.S.C.
Sec. 921, 922
20 U. S. C.  
Sec. 7151

20 U. S. C.  
Sec. 7114