

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 5131.7

5144.2 BP changed to BP 5131.7

CLASSIFICATION: Students

ADOPTED: 11/23/98

REVISED: 08/24/09

08/28/23

SUBJECT: Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

The County Superintendent and the County Board recognize that students and staff have the right to a safe and secure campus free from physical and psychological harm and desire to protect them from the dangers presented by firearms and other weapons.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

The County Superintendent prohibits any student from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or other dangerous instruments, as defined in law and administrative regulation, in school buildings, on school grounds, when using transportation provided by the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), at school-related or school-sponsored activities away from school, or while going to or coming from school.

If a student is in possession of a prohibited weapon, imitation firearm, or dangerous instrument which creates a threat or perceived threat of a homicidal act, any employee or other school official who is alerted to or observes such threat shall immediately report the threat to law enforcement.

Under the power granted to the County Superintendent to protect the safety of students, staff and others on district property and to maintain order and discipline in the schools, any school employee is authorized to confiscate a any weapon, imitation firearm, or other dangerous instrument from any student on school grounds.

The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a firearm, explosive, or other prohibited weapon or dangerous instrument without permission, sells or furnishes a firearm, or commits any act of assault with a firearm or other weapon.

A student possessing or threatening others with any weapon, dangerous instrument, or imitation firearm shall be subject to suspension in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

All staff shall be made aware of their responsibilities regarding the reporting of potential homicidal acts to law enforcement and receive training in the assessment and reporting of such threats.

POSSESSION OF PEPPER SPRAY

To prevent potential misuse that may harm students or staff, students are prohibited from carrying tear gas or tear gas weapons such as pepper spray on campus or at school activities.

REPORTING OF DANGEROUS OBJECTS

The County Superintendent encourages students to promptly report the presence of weapons, injurious objects, or other suspicious activity to school authorities. The identity of a student who reports such activity shall remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

The County Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies designed to facilitate student reporting of the presence of injurious objects on school grounds, such as tip hotlines, electronic transmissions, or other methods that preserve the student's anonymity. Incident reports and records shall not identify the student who reported the possession. The County Superintendent or designee shall also inform staff, students, and parents/guardians that students who report the presence of injurious objects on school campuses are to be protected and their identity shielded.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

35291	Governing board to prescribe rules for discipline of the schools
48902	Mandatory notification of law enforcement authorities
48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
49330-49335	Injurious object
49390-49395	Homicide threats

PENAL CODE

245	Assault with deadly weapon
417.4	Imitation firearm; drawing or exhibiting
626.9	Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995
626.10	Dirks, daggers, knives, razor or stun guns; bringing or possessing in school
16100-17360	Definitions
22810-23025	Tear gas weapon (pepper spray)
25200-25225	Firearms; access to children
30310	Prohibition against ammunition on school grounds

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 6

665k	Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Evidence-Based Practices
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UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301-7941	No Child Left Behind
7961	Gun-Free Schools Act