

***Wayne County Board of Education
Policies Update: (Administration) (1)***

- ***Policy 1617 (Administration: Weapons)***

***Your comments concerning these policy should be sent
in writing (mail or email) to:***

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***These policies are out for public comment for 10 working days beginning
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 through Tuesday, April 28, 2026***

Book	Public Comment Period 4/15/26 thru 4/28/26
Section	First Reading - Agenda 4/14/26
Title	Revised Policy - Volume 17, No. 2 - August 2025 - WEAPONS
Code	po1617
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Adopted	January 23, 2018
Last Revised	April 23, 2024

Revised Policy - Volume 17, No. 2 - August 2025

1617 - WEAPONS

The Board of Education hereby finds that the safety and welfare of the citizens of this County are inextricably dependent upon assurances of safety for children attending, and the persons employed by, schools in this County.

The Board prohibits administrative personnel members from possessing or carrying or causing the possession or carrying of any firearm or other deadly weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, the site of any school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle, including a school bus, unless such person is a law enforcement officer acting in his/her official capacity or s/he has the express written permission of the Board or Principal to conduct programs with valid educational purposes. Any administrative employee who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

This prohibition does not apply to an individual twenty-one (21) or older who has a valid concealed handgun permit and possesses a concealed firearm while in a motor vehicle in a public school's parking lot, traffic circle, or other area of vehicular ingress or egress so long as the firearm is out of view from individuals outside the vehicle.

Further, this prohibition does not apply to an individual twenty-one (21) or older who has a valid concealed handgun permit and possesses an unloaded firearm in a locked vehicle or locked firearm case, that is on any part of school grounds used as a parking facility provided, however that the handgun case or rack is not visible to those passing by the vehicle (i.e., the case is in the vehicle trunk, glove box or other interior compartment, or in another locked container securely fixed to the vehicle.)

The term **deadly weapon** means an instrument that is designed to be used to produce serious bodily injury or death or is readily adaptable to such use. The term deadly weapon shall include, but not be limited to the following:

A. Antique firearm means:

1. Any firearm, including, but not limited to, a firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system that was manufactured on or before 1898;
2. Any replica of any firearm described in (A) above if such replica is not designed or redesigned to use rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade; and
3. Any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading pistol, which is designed to use black powder, or black powder substitute, and which cannot use fixed ammunition. The term antique firearm shall not include any weapon that includes a firearm frame or receiver, any firearm that is converted into a muzzle-loading weapon, or any muzzle-loading weapon that can be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the barrel, bolt, breechblock, or any combination thereof.

B. Blackjack means a short bludgeon consisting, at the striking end, of an encased piece of lead or some other heavy substance and, at the handle end, a strap or springy shaft that increases the force of impact when a person or object is struck. The term blackjack shall include, but not be limited to, a billy club, sand club, sandbag or slapjack.

- C. **Gravity knife** means any knife that has a blade released from the handle by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force and when so released is locked in place by means of a button, spring, lever or other locking or catching device.
- D. **Knife** means an instrument, intended to be used or readily adaptable to be used as a weapon, consisting of a sharp-edged or sharp-pointed blade, usually made of steel, attached to a handle that is capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing or tearing wounds. The term knife shall include, but not be limited to, any dagger, dirk, poniard or stiletto, with a blade over three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in length, any switchblade knife or gravity knife and any other instrument capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing or tearing wounds. A pocket knife with a blade three and one-half (3 1/2) inches or less in length, a hunting or fishing knife carried for hunting, fishing, sports or other recreational uses, or a knife designed for use as a tool or household implement shall not be included within the term knife as defined herein unless such knife is knowingly used or intended to be used to produce serious bodily injury or death.
- E. **Switchblade knife** means any knife having a spring-operated blade that opens automatically upon pressure being applied to a button, catch or other releasing device in its handle.
- F. **Nunchaku** means a flailing instrument consisting of two (2) or more rigid parts, connected by a chain, cable, rope or other nonrigid, flexible or springy material, constructed in such a manner as to allow the rigid parts to swing freely so that one (1) rigid part may be used as a handle and the other rigid part may be used as the striking end.
- G. **Metallic or false knuckles** means a set of finger rings attached to a transverse piece to be worn over the front of the hand for use as a weapon and constructed in such a manner that, when striking another person with the fist or closed hand, considerable physical damage may be inflicted upon the person struck. The terms metallic or false knuckles shall include any such instrument without reference to the metal or other substance or substances from which the metallic or false knuckles are made.
- H. **Pistol** means a short firearm having a chamber that is integral with the barrel, designed to be aimed and fired by the use of a single hand.
- I. **Revolver** means a short firearm having a cylinder of several chambers that are brought successively into line with the barrel to be discharged, designed to be aimed and fired by the use of a single hand.
- J. **Pepper Spray** means a temporarily disabling aerosol that is composed partly of capsicum oleoresin and causes irritation, blinding of the eyes, and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin that is intended for self-defense use.
- K. Other deadly weapons of like-kind or character above which may be easily concealed on or about the person.
- L. Explosive, chemical, biological and radiological materials.

The term deadly weapon does not include any item or material owned by the school or Board, intended for curricular use, and used by the student at the time of the alleged offense solely for curricular purposes. The term deadly weapon does not include pepper spray as defined above when used by any person over the age of sixteen (16) solely for self-defense purposes.

Concealed means hidden from ordinary observation so as to prevent disclosure or recognition. A deadly weapon is concealed when it is carried on or about the person in such a manner that another person in the ordinary course of events would not be placed on notice that the deadly weapon was being carried.

Firearm means any weapon which will expel a projectile by action of an explosion.

The Principal or, if the violation does not occur within his/her jurisdiction, the administrator with authority, shall report any violation of this policy to the appropriate local office of the State Police, county sheriff, or municipal police agency and the State Superintendent of Schools as soon as possible after the violation occurs, and to the Superintendent immediately. Any professional employee who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, as permitted by applicable Board policy.

Exceptions to this policy include:

- A. a law enforcement officer employed by a Federal, State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency;
- B. any probation officer in the performance of his/her duties;

- C. any home confinement supervisor employed by a county commission pursuant to State law in the performance of his/her duties;
- D. a State parole officer appointed pursuant to State law while in performance of his/her official duties;
- E. a retired law enforcement officer who meets all the requirements to carry a firearm as a qualified retired law enforcement officer under the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act of 2004, and carries that firearm in a concealed manner, and has on his/her person official identification in accordance with that Act;
- F. a person other than a student of a primary and secondary facility, specifically authorized by the Board of Education or principal of the school where the property is located to conduct programs with valid educational purposes; ~~(working firearms and ammunition shall never be approved)~~ (→)
- G. () working firearms and ammunition shall never be approved; **[END OF OPTION]**
- H. a person who, as otherwise permitted, possesses an unloaded firearm or deadly weapon in a motor vehicle or leaves an unloaded firearm or deadly weapon in a locked motor vehicle;
- I. programs or raffles conducted with the approval of the Board of Education or school which include the display of unloaded firearms, provided that such unloaded firearm must have first had the firing mechanism removed and the firearm must thereafter have been checked by a member of the West Virginia State Police to ensure that it is safe;
- J. air rifles and rimfire rifles possessed for the purpose of shooting teams to the extent permitted in WV Code;
- K. the official mascot of West Virginia University, commonly known as "The Mountaineer", acting in his/her official capacity;
- L. the official mascot of Parkersburg South High School, commonly known as the Patriot, acting in his/her official capacity;
- M. any person, twenty-one (21) years old or older, who has a valid concealed handgun permit;

That person may possess a concealed handgun while in a motor vehicle in a parking lot, traffic circle, or other areas of vehicular ingress or egress to a school provided that when s/he is occupying the vehicle, the person stores the handgun out of view from persons outside the vehicle; or when s/he is not occupying the vehicle, the person stores the handgun out of view from persons outside the vehicle, the vehicle is locked, and the handgun is in a glove box or other interior compartment, or in a locked trunk, or in a locked container securely fixed to the vehicle.
- N. (x) starter pistols, incapable of expelling a projectile by the action of an explosion, when used in appropriate sporting events.

Air Rifles and Rimfire Rifles for School Teams

Air rifles and rimfire rifles are permitted for school-sponsored shooting team practices and events under the following conditions;

- A. An "air rifle" or "compressed air rifle" means a rifle, gun, or other firearm that uses compressed air or gas to propel projectiles, such as pellets, rather than relying on the explosive force of gunpowder like traditional firearms.
- B. A "rimfire rifle" means a firearm that uses rimfire ammunition, which is a type of metallic cartridge with a primer in the rim of the casing, wherein the firing pin strikes the rim, igniting the primer and propelling the bullet down the barrel.
- C. Air rifles and rimfire rifles are permitted on school buses solely during transportation to or from a school-sponsored shooting team event; on the grounds of any primary or secondary educational facility of any type for shooting team purposes; and at a school-sponsored shooting team function that is taking place in a specific area that is owned, rented, or leased by the West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, a county school board, or local public school.
 - 1. During the school day or at any time other than school-sponsored team events or practices, the air rifles and rimfire rifles and ammunition shall be locked in a location where students do not have access.
 - 2. Air rifles and rimfire rifles and ammunition stored on school buses shall be placed in a locked case and located in a specific location that is determined by the State Transportation Director or the County

Transportation Director.

Administrative employees shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by students, other employees, or visitors to the building administrator. Failure to report such information may subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

18 U.S.C. 922

WV Code 18-2-46

WV Code 61-7-2

WV Code 61-7-11

WV Code 61-7-11a

WV Code 61-7-14

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18 U.S.C. 922

WV Code 18-2-46

WV Code 61-7-2

WV Code 61-7-11

WV Code 61-7-11a

WV Code 61-7-14

Cross References

po5500 - STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

po5600 - STUDENT DISCIPLINE

po5605 - DISCIPLINE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

po5610 - EXCLUSION FROM CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL BUS, SUSPENSION, AND
EXPULSION OF STUDENTS