

## **Section J: Students**

### **JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety**

The Region 8 Board believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in a school environment free of violence, threats and disruptive behavior. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board policies, school rules, reasonable unwritten behavior expectations, and applicable state and federal laws.

School staff are required to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct by students to the Director or their designee for investigation and appropriate action.

#### **Prohibited Conduct**

Students are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct on school property, while in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or at any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school:

- A. Possession and/or use of articles commonly used or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person.  
Examples of such articles include but are not limited to firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, any other kind of gun, ammunition, explosives, cross-bows, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, chains, clubs, Kung Fu stars and nunchucks;
- B. Use of any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person.  
Examples of such articles include but are not limited to bats, belts, picks, pencils, compasses, objects capable of ignition (e.g., matches, lighters), files, tools of any sort and replicas of weapons (including toys);
- C. Violent or threatening behavior, including but not limited to fighting, assault, and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property (e.g. verbal or written death threats, threats of bodily harm, bomb threats);
- D. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through a computer or personal electronic device) which threaten, intimidate, or harass others, which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program;
  - 1. A personal electronic device is defined as cell phone, pager, smart phone, laptop computers, iPads, iPods, or any electronic device that transmits data or voice.
- E. Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property;

- F. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;
- G. Violations of the school's drug/alcohol and tobacco policies;
- H. Violations of state or federal laws; and
- I. Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property.

**Disciplinary Action**

The Director may suspend and/or recommend removal of students who violate this policy based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Conduct which violates this policy and is deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A MRS § 1001(9) will be grounds for removal if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school. Such conduct may also be grounds for removal under other provision of 20-A MRS §1001(9) and (9-A) that specifically prohibit the use and possession of weapons, infractions of violence, and possession, furnishing and trafficking of scheduled drugs.

All firearms violations shall be referred to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Other violations of this policy shall be referred to law enforcement authorities at the discretion of the Director.

Students who are found to have brought a firearm or to have possessed a firearm at a school (as both terms are defined by federal law), shall be removed for a period of not less than one year, unless this requirement is modified by the Director on a case-by-case basis in writing.

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws/regulations.

Legal References: 20 USCA Section 8921 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994)  
5 MRS § 4681 et seq.  
17-A MRS § 2(9)(12-A)  
20-A MRS § 1001(9)(9-A); 6552

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