

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. Students who are subjected to or observe prohibited conduct are strongly encouraged to report it to a staff member or administrator.

1. 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. Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of school property;
- C. 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);
- D. Violent, threatening or menacing 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), stalking, or blocking access to school property or facilities;
- E. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through a computer or other electronic device) which threaten, intimidate, or harass others; verbal or written statements which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program; blackmail; extortion; or demands for money or property;

- F. Intentional damage to school or personal property;
- G. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;
- H. Lewd, indecent or obscene acts or expressions of any kind;
- I. Violations of the school's drug/alcohol and tobacco policies;
- J. Violations of state or federal laws; and
- K. Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property.

1. Exceptions to Prohibition Against Possession and Use of Weapons on School Property

- A. The prohibition on the possession and discharge of a firearm does not apply to law enforcement officials.

2. Addressing Policy Violations

The Director may engage students in restorative intervention and/or discipline students who violate this policy based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with applicable Board policies and 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.

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.

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

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

Legal References: 20 USC § 7151 (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)(15) and (15-1); 6552
P.L. 2005, ch. 307

Cross References: ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
JIC – Student Code of Conduct
JICH – Student Drug and Alcohol Use
JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention in Schools
JK – Student Discipline
JKD – Suspension of Students
JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students
KLG – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

First Reading: 1/27/99, 6/24/09, 6/24/15, 12/16/20, 1/26/22
Adopted: 2/24/99, 9/23/09, 8/26/15, 1/27/21, 2/16/22
Revised: 6/15/15, 12/7/20, 1/12/22
Reviewed: _____