

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS**501 WEAPONS****I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning and working environment that is free from weapons of any type.

II. DEFINITION**A. Weapon**

A weapon means any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or common object through its use is capable of threatening or intentionally inflicting bodily harm, death, or self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; paintball gun; sling shots; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; whips; numchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; taser guns; ammunition; poisons; non-decorative chains; arrows; replica weapons; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

B. School Location

Includes any school building or grounds, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the school, location of school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, all locations where school-related functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of Independent School District No. 719.

C. Possession

Means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No student, or non-student, including adults, visitors, and employees shall possess, use, or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy. Independent School District No. 719 will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, those offering services on school premises, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

A. Consequences for student weapon possession/use/distribution

1. Consequences for students possessing, using, or distributing weapons shall include:
 - a. Confiscation of the weapon;
 - b. Immediate out-of-school suspension for not less than 3 days;
 - c. Immediate notification of the police or police liaison;
 - d. Parent or guardian notification; and
 - e. Consideration for probable expulsion.
 - f. In the case of a student who brings a firearm to school, the student will be expelled for at least one year, pursuant to Minnesota law and defined by federal law. The superintendent may modify such expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

2. Consequences for weapon possession/use/distribution by non-students

Employees

- a. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
- b. Sanctions against employees, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies.
- c. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.

Other Non-Students

- a. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location immediately. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school district, that school district may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
- b. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.

B. Exceptions

1. A student who finds a weapon, dangerous object, or look alike weapon on the way to school or in a school location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the principal's office, shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If it would be impractical or dangerous to take the weapon to the principal's office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon if he or she immediately turns the weapon over to an administrator; teacher, coach, bus driver, or responsible adult, or immediately notifies an administrator, teacher, coach, bus driver or responsible adult of the weapon's location.
2. It shall not be considered a violation of this policy if a non-student falls within one of the following categories:
 - a. Licensed peace officers, military personnel, or students participating in military training who are on duty, performing official duties;
 - b. Persons with a permit to carry a pistol under Minnesota law while they are in a motor vehicle or outside of a motor vehicle to directly place the firearm in, or retrieve it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle;
 - c. Persons who keep or store in a motor vehicle pistols in accordance with state statute or other firearms in accordance with state statute;

- d. Firearm safety or marksmanship courses or activities conducted on school property; to possess replica weapons during a color guard performance; or to use weapon facsimiles/replicas during student or community facility user groups performances or for instruction with written permission of the building or program administrator;
- e. Possession of dangerous weapons, BB Guns, or replica firearms by a ceremonial color guard;
- f. Possession of a dangerous weapon, BB Gun, or replica firearm with the written permission of the superintendent or designee.
- g. School District No. 719 policy application to instructional equipment and tools on the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students and non-students does not mean to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students or non-students. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use, or distribution of weapons. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

3. Firearms in School Parking Lots and Parking Facilities

A school district may not prohibit the lawful carry or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility. For purposes of this policy, the “lawful” carry or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to non-student permit-holders authorized by Minnesota Statute, to carry a pistol in the interior of a vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle. Any possession or carry of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder’s vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.

4. Administrative & Board Discretion

While Independent School District No.719 does not tolerate the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students or non-students, the superintendent or designee may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

C. Disclosure

A student’s expulsion, withdrawal, or transfer from District No. 719 after an expulsion action is initiated for a weapons violation must be disclosed to another school district in connection with the possible admission of the student to the other district.

D. Student Expelled Elsewhere

A student expelled in another school district for a weapons violation will not be permitted to enroll in the Prior Lake – Savage Area Schools unless that student becomes a resident of the Prior Lake – Savage Area School District, and then only after a thorough review of the circumstances surrounding the expulsion.

E. Notification of Policy

Students and parents will be made aware of this policy through student handbooks, policy handout distribution, school assemblies, and teacher–led classroom discussions. A copy of the policy will be placed on the district website.