

Administrative Procedures

AP-419 WEAPONS IN SCHOOLS	Date of implementation: Fall 2020
	Date of update:
	Related Administrative Procedures: AP-409 Student Behaviour AP-410 Physical Safety AP-426 Searches by School Authorities

Purpose: Students and adults shall not possess or use any real or replica weapons on any school premises or at any activity off school premises that is organized or sponsored by a school.

Definitions:

Weapons - A weapon is anything used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing injury or death to any person or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person.

Examples of weapons include, but are not limited to: hand guns, rifles, shot guns, air rifles, knives, tasers, laser pointers, multi-tools that include a blade, daggers, crossbows, explosives, tear gas, mace, pepper spray and any liquid, spray or powder capable of injuring, immobilizing or otherwise incapacitating any person.

Exceptions - The Principal, in consultation with the Director or designate, may provide approval for items to be used in schools that could be classified as a weapon. In these cases a plan must be developed for safe handling and storage. Examples of these items include, but are not limited to:

- Replica weapons to be used as a prop in theatrical productions.
- Items that are used for instructional purposes, such as knives for home economics, tools for Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) and sports equipment.
- Religious and cultural items.

Procedure:

1) Response to Weapons

- a) When a principal or vice principal reasonably believes that a person on school premises is in possession of a real or replica weapon, they will:
 - i) Initiate the lockdown/hold and secure protocol, if appropriate.
 - ii) Follow the Violence Threat Assessment Guidelines.
 - iii) Attempt to confiscate and secure the weapon in a safe manner.

- iv) Notify police, if appropriate.
 - v) Initiate disciplinary action in accordance with Division policies and procedures.
 - vi) Contact the parent(s) of the student(s) involved
- b) Firearms, including those used for hunting purposes, may not be stored by students or staff on or near school property during the school day.
 - c) Staff should be aware that students carrying weapons may be victims of bullying or harassment and feel that they need to have a weapon for self-defence. In these situations, the appropriate Division disciplinary and harassment policies should be followed and supports provided to the student(s), if warranted.
 - d) Searching of lockers, backpacks, desks and personal searches should be conducted with extreme caution and in accordance with Division policies and procedures.
 - i) It is recommended that cut resistant gloves be worn by any staff conducting searches.
- 2) Informing students and parents

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that students, staff and parents are aware of the Division guidelines on weapons in schools.

References:

[Prairie Spirit Safe Schools Team](#)

[Saskatoon and Area Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol \(CTASP\)](#) – Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)

A Guide to Saskatchewan School Law – K. Walker, J. Chomos, D. Burgess

[The Education Act, 1995](#) – Section 193