

Administrative Procedures

AP-419 WEAPONS IN PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION	Date of implementation: Fall 2020
	Date of update: September 23, 2026
	Related Administrative Procedures: AP-409 Student Behaviour AP-410 Physical Safety AP-426 Searches by School Authorities

Background:

Prairie Spirit School Division is committed to providing caring, healthy and safe learning environments for all students, staff, and community members. The possession, use or threat of use of weapons, explosives, firearms, replica weapons, or other dangerous instruments is strictly prohibited on division property, on the way to and from school, or during any school-related activity.

Weapons incidents represent a serious risk to safety and require immediate and coordinated action. The Division responds to such incidents in collaboration with parents/caregivers, RCMP/Police and other partners, through the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP).

Definitions:

Weapon – Any object designed, used, or intended to cause injury, harm, or intimidation, or control of others, or to otherwise endanger the safety of any person. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Firearms
- Explosives or fireworks
- Knives, blades, or other cutting instruments that are not required for approved school activities
- Clubs, brass knuckles, or improvised weapons
- Incendiary devices or materials including any object used to ignite or spread fire
- Chemical or irritant sprays such as bear spray, pepper spray, or mace
- Conducted energy weapons such as tasers or stun guns
- Any other dangerous instrument that poses a risk of harm to self or others

Replica Weapon – An object that is not a real weapon but is designed to imitate one and may reasonably be perceived as a threat.

Firearm – A device from which a projectile can be discharged by means of an explosive, compressed air, gas, or spring, whether real, disabled, or inoperable. This includes handguns, rifles, shotguns, peel guns, BB guns, and airsoft guns.

Procedure:**1) Prohibition**

- a) Explosives, firearms, replica weapons, or any dangerous instruments or materials are not permitted on school property, at school activities, or during transport to and from school.
- b) Exceptions may be granted by the principal only for authorized educational or cultural activities in consultation with the school's Learning Superintendent.

2) 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 Risk Assessment (VTRA) 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)/caregiver(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 defence. In these situations, the appropriate division disciplinary and harassment policies should be followed and supports provided to the student(s), if warranted.
- d) Search of lockers, backpacks, desks and personal searches should be conducted with extreme caution and in accordance with Division policies and procedures.

3) Discipline and Consequences

- a) Discipline and consequences will be guided by Administrative Procedure 409 – Student Behaviour.
- b) Consequences will be determined in consultation with the school's Learning Superintendent and may include reprimand, suspension and/or expulsion under the Education Act, Sections 151 to 153 and Section 175.

4) 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 School Division's Caring, Healthy and Safe Schools

[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](#) – Sections 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 175, and 193