

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: COB-RA, COB-EA, COC-RA, COC-EA, COE-EA, COE-EB, JFA, JFA-RA
Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Chief Operating Officer

Weapons

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to be followed when weapons are found on MCPS sites

II. BACKGROUND

In addition to the very clear prohibition of deadly weapons on school property as cited in the *Annotated Code of Maryland* (Exhibit COE-EA), the school also has the authority to establish reasonable disciplinary guidelines to (1) prohibit and/or confiscate objects not specifically named in the law but which may reasonably be characterized as weapons either because of their dangerous nature or because they are used in a manner that endangers the safety of themselves or other persons and (2) assure the safety of students or staff in the school environment. It is further noted that personnel have an obligation to report all police matters involving weapons on an MCPS site to their principal or designee.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Weapons* are defined generally as implements that can cause bodily harm, and the term includes but is not limited to, knives, metal knuckles, nunchakus, guns, rifles, firearms (as defined by the U.S. Code -- see Exhibit COE-EB: *Firearms*), BB guns, paintball guns, pellet guns, and any object used as a weapon.
- B. *Firearm facsimiles* are gun look-alikes, including any instrument designed to resemble a firearm.
- C. An *MCPS Site* is defined as any school, bus or facility, including grounds, owned or occupied by MCPS. The definition includes the location of an MCPS sponsored activity as well as transportation provided by MCPS to attend an MCPS sponsored activity.
- D. The *principal/designee* refers to the administrator responsible for a school or office as appropriate.

- E. *Appropriate associate/community superintendent* means the associate/community superintendent for:
- Office of School Performance when referring to regular or special education schools
 - Office of Special Education and Student Services, when referring to alternative programs
 - Office of the Chief Operating Officer when referring to all other locations or operations

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Any knowledge or reasonable suspicion of unauthorized possession of, or access to a weapon by a person on an MCPS site will be reported promptly to the principal or designee.
- B. After appropriate investigation, the principal or designee will determine which course of action the circumstances dictate:
1. Informing the police immediately of the presence of a person possessing or suspected of possessing a firearm and requesting immediate assistance
 2. Informing the person possessing or suspected of possessing a weapon other than a firearm of the violation and giving that person a chance to surrender the weapon in a safe manner to the principal or designee
 3. In exigent circumstances the principal or designee may determine which course of action the situation dictates
- C. If the person in possession of the weapon is a student, the parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible by the principal or designee.
- D. The principal or designee will make an oral report to the appropriate associate/community superintendent, with a follow-up report to be filed on MCPS Form 270-3: *Report of a Serious School Incident*.
- E. Principals/designees should exercise discretion in confiscating weapons from students depending on the age of the student, the nature of the circumstances, and the potential for resulting danger.

- F. Students found to be in possession of firearms on an MCPS site will be expelled. Students found to be in possession of other weapons will be suspended and may be expelled. Procedures for suspension and expulsion are described in Regulation JGA-RB: *Suspension or Expulsion of an MCPS Student*.
- G. Students found to be in possession of firearm facsimiles should receive disciplinary action in accordance with Regulation JFA-RA: *Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

Regulation History: Formerly Regulation No. 230-17, October 1, 1976; directory information updated, January 1983; revised October 9, 1989; revised June 11, 1993; revised October 4, 1996; revised July 20, 1998; revised October 13, 1999; updated office titles June 1, 2000; revised February 10, 2006.