

WEAPONS POLICY

Introduction. Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School recognizes the importance of a safe school in the educational process. Weapons in schools are a threat to the safety of students and staff and are prohibited by law.

Definitions.

Weapon - any object, device, or instrument designed for or capable of threatening or inflicting serious bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to: any firearm, shotgun, or rifle, whether loaded or unloaded; any knife, cutting instrument, or cutting tool; any nunchaku; any chemical agents such as pepper spray or mace; laser pointers; stun gun; incendiary device; any other tool, instrument or object used or intended to be used to inflict serious bodily harm. The term weapon shall also include any simulated, replica, toy, or look-alike weapon.

Possession – to have on one’s person; in one's locker; or under one's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

Procedure. Students are prohibited from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school building, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or to a school-sponsored activity.

Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law and Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School policy. The Principal may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of a student with disabilities, Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School shall take all steps required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and follow Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School policy.

The discovery of any weapon prohibited by this policy shall be reported promptly to the student's parents/guardians and to local law enforcement officials.

The Principal or designee shall respond promptly to information and knowledge concerning weapons on school property. Such response shall be in compliance with state law and regulation and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials.

The Principal or his/her designee shall:

1. Report all incidents relating to expulsion for possession of a weapon to the Department of Education.
2. Ensure that the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials sets forth procedures to be followed when an incident involving an act of violence or possession of a weapon by any person occurs on school property.

Acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools as required by law and regulations.

Guidelines.

Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the school community.

This policy shall not apply to a weapon, or item that otherwise would be considered a weapon, being used by an individual who is participating in a supervised school program approved by Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School.

Additional exceptions to this policy may be made by the Principal, who shall prescribe special conditions or administrative procedures to be followed. In no case shall an exception to this policy violate laws or ordinances regarding possession of weapons.