

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

**POLICY 5131.7**

**FIREARMS, WEAPONS, AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS**

Students who use or possess firearms, weapons or other instruments which can be used as weapons endanger the health, safety and welfare of students and staff and interfere with the proper learning environment.

The Board of Education prohibits the possession and/or use of firearms, weapons, deadly weapons or dangerous instruments from school property, on a school bus, at any school function, or while enroute to or from school, or any school function.

**FIREARM:** as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(f) means any hand gun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, automatic or semi-automatic rifle, or any gun, device or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectable ball, slug, pellet, missile or bullet, or any gas, vapor or other noxious thing, by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or the igniting of flammable or explosive substances. It shall also include, without limited, any firearm which is in the nature of an air gun, spring gun or pistol or other weapon of a similar nature in which the propelling force is a spring, elastic band, carbon dioxide, compressed or other gas or vapor, air or compressed air, or is ignited by compressed air, and ejecting a bullet or missile smaller than three-eighths of an inch in diameter, with sufficient force to injure a person.

**WEAPONS AND DEADLY WEAPONS:** as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(r), means anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term includes, but is not limited to, all (1) firearms, even though not loaded or lacking a clip or other component to render them immediately operable; (2) components which can be readily assembled into a weapon;(3) gravity knives, switchblade knives, daggers, dirks, stilettos, or other dangerous knives, billies, backjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles, sandclubs, slingshots, cesti or similar leather bands studded with metal filings or razor blades imbedded in wood; and (4) stun guns; and any weapon or other device which projects, releases, or emits tear gas or any other substance intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.

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**POSSESSION OF REMOTELY ACTIVATED PAGING DEVICES (BEEPERS) ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IS DISORDERLY PERSONS OFFENSE; EXEMPTIONS:** (as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19)

No person enrolled as a student of an elementary or secondary school, knowingly and without the express written permission of the school board, its delegated authority, or any school principal, shall bring or possess any remotely activated paging device on any property used for school purposes, at any time and regardless of whether school is in session or other persons are present. A violation of this section shall be a disorderly persons offense. No permission to bring or possess any remotely activated paging device on school property shall be granted unless and until a student shall have established to the satisfaction of the school authorities a reasonable basis for the possession of the device on school property.

This section shall not apply to any student who is an active member in good standing of a volunteer fire company or first aid, ambulance or rescue squad provided that (1) the student is required to respond to an emergency and (2) a copy of the statement by the chief executive officer of the volunteer fire company or first aid, ambulance or rescue squad authorizing the possession of the paging device is in the possession of the student at all times while that student is in possession of the remotely activated paging device.

Any student violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

<i>Legal References:</i>	<i>N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60 et al.</i>	<i>Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19</i>	<i>Paging devices, possession by students</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1</i>	<i>Definitions</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5</i>	<i>Unlawful possession of weapons</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6</i>	<i>Exemptions</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1</i>	<i>Corporal punishment of pupils</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.2</i>	<i>Student locker or other storage facility; inspections; notice to students</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1</i>	<i>Submission of pupils to authority</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2</i>	<i>Causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 18A:-37-2.1</i>	<i>Assaults by pupil upon teacher, administrator, board member or employee; suspension; expulsion proceedings</i>
	<i>N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 through -12</i>	<i>Zero Tolerance for Guns Act</i>
	<i>N.J.A.C. 6:29-10.1 et seq.</i>	<i>Safe and drug free schools</i>
	<i>See particularly:</i>	
	<i>N.J.A.C. 6:29-10.2,-10.4(b),-10.5</i>	

*P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994*  
*Section 1702, USPL 101-647 Prohibits possession or discharge of a firearm in a school zone*  
*Attorney General's Executive Directive No. 1988-1, Memorandum of Agreement (revised, amended)*  
*State in Interest of T.L.O., 94 N.J. 331, 346 (1983), rev'd 105 S. Ct. 733 (1985)*

Adopted: 9/18/95

Revised: 11/18/96, 12/19/00