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BSD Policy C5

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

CODE C5: FIREARMS

Former Policy F4R

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe sanctions for a student who brings a firearm to school.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the terms “firearm,” “school,” and “expelled” shall be defined consistent with the definitions required by state and federal law.

Policy

It is the policy of Burlington School District to comply with the federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 and state law requiring school districts to provide for the possible expulsion of students who bring firearms to or possess firearms at school. It is further the intent of **Burlington School District** to maintain a student discipline system consistent with the requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Vermont State Board of Education rules.

Sanctions

Any student who brings a firearm to school, or who possesses a firearm at school, shall be brought by the superintendent to the school board for an expulsion hearing.

A student found by the school board after a hearing to have brought a firearm to school shall be expelled for at least one calendar year. However, the school board may modify the expulsion on a case-by-case basis when it finds circumstances such as, but not limited to:

1. The student was unaware that they had brought a firearm to school.
2. The student did not intend to use the firearm to threaten or endanger others.
3. The student is disabled and the misconduct is related to the disability.
4. The student does not present an ongoing threat to others and a lengthy expulsion would not serve the best interests of the pupil.

At the discretion of the school board and administration, an expelled student may be afforded limited educational services at a site other than the school during the period of expulsion under this policy.

Policy Implementation

An expulsion hearing conducted under this policy shall afford due process as required by law and as developed by the superintendent or designee.

The superintendent shall refer to the appropriate law enforcement agency any student who brings a firearm to a school under the control and supervision of the school district. The superintendent may also report any incident subject to this policy to the Department for Children and Families (DCF).

The superintendent shall annually provide the Secretary of Education with descriptions of the circumstances surrounding expulsions imposed under this policy, the number of students expelled, and the type of firearms involved.

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<i>Date Adopted:</i>	<i>June 3, 2025</i>
<i>Legal Reference(s):</i>	<i>16 V.S.A. § 1166 (State law pursuant to Federal law)</i>
	<i>13 V.S.A. §§ 4004, 4016 (Criminal offenses)</i>
	<i>20 U.S.C. § 7151(Gun Free Schools Act)</i>
	<i>18 U.S.C. § 921 (Gun Free School Zones Act of 1990)</i>
	<i>20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.(IDEA)</i>
	<i>29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973)</i>
	<i>Vt. State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices, §§ 4311, 4313</i>
<i>Cross Reference:</i>	<i>Search and Seizure</i>
	<i>Student Conduct and Discipline</i>