

1 **Great Falls School District**

2
3 **STUDENTS**

3311

4
5 **Firearms and Weapons**

6 **Firearms**

7 For the purposes of the firearms section of this policy, the term “firearm” means (A) any weapon
8 (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by
9 the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or
10 firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921 (4). Such term does not include
11 an antique firearm pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921 (16).

12 It is the policy of the Great Falls Public Schools to comply with the federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994
13 and state law 20-5-202 (2), MCA, pertaining to students who bring a firearm to, or possess a firearm at,
14 any setting that is under the control and supervision of the school district. In accordance with 20-5-202
15 (3), MCA, a teacher, superintendent, or a principal shall suspend immediately for good cause a student
16 who is determined to have brought a firearm to, or possess a firearm at, any setting that is under the
17 control and supervision of the school district. In accordance with Montana law, a student who is
18 determined to have brought a firearm to, or possess a firearm at, any setting that is under the control and
19 supervision of the school district must be expelled from school for a period of not less than 1 year.

20 However, on a case-by-case basis, the Board of Trustees will convene a hearing to review the underlying
21 circumstances and, in the discretion of the Board, may authorize the school administration to modify the
22 requirement for expulsion of a student.

23 A decision to change the placement of a student with a disability who has been expelled pursuant to this
24 section must be made in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

25 **Possession of Weapons other than Firearms**

26 The District does not allow weapons on school property. Any student found to have possessed, used or
27 transferred a weapon on school property will be subject to discipline in accordance with the District’s
28 discipline policy. For purposes of this section, “weapon” means any object, device, or instrument
29 designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may
30 be used to inflict self-injury, including but not limited to air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; fake (facsimile)
31 weapons; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks (also known as nunchucks); throwing
32 stars; explosives; fireworks; mace or other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows;
33 and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

34 No person shall possess, use, or distribute any object, device, or instrument having the appearance of a
35 weapon, and such objects, devices, or instruments shall be treated as weapons, including but not limited
36 to weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object
37 that is a facsimile of a real weapon. No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers
38 or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.) to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate, and
39 such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

40 The District will refer to law enforcement for immediate prosecution any person who possesses, carries,
41 or stores a weapon in a school building, and the District may take disciplinary action as well in the case of
42 a student. In addition the District will refer for possible prosecution a parent or guardian of any minor
43 violating this policy on grounds of allowing a minor to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school
44 building. (45-8-361 (1) (2))

1 For the purposes of this section only, “school building” means all buildings owned or leased by a local
2 school district that are used for instruction or for student activities. (45-8-361 (5a))

3 The Board may grant persons and entities advance permission to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a
4 school building. For the purposes of education, instruction and ceremonial occasions, the building
5 principal, in consultation with the school resource officer, may grant students or faculty prior written
6 permission to bring a weapon or disabled firearm into a school building. The Superintendent or designee
7 will be notified by the building principal each time permission is granted for an individual or group to
8 bring weapons on to a GFPS school campus for educational purposes. (ex. Hunter education classes,
9 History lessons, Shop class, etc.)

10 All other persons who wish to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building must request
11 permission of the Board at a regular meeting. The Board has sole discretion in deciding whether to allow
12 a person to possess, carry, or store a weapon in a school building. (45-8-361 (3b))

13 This policy does not apply to law enforcement officers. (45-8-361 (3a))

14 The trustees shall annually review this policy and update this policy as determined necessary based on
15 changing circumstances pertaining to school safety.

16 Cross Reference:

17 Policy 3310 Student Discipline
18 Policy 4332 Conduct of School Property

19 Legal Reference:

20 § 20-5-202, MCA Suspension and expulsion
21 § 45-8-361, MCA Possession or allowing possession of a weapon in a school building
22 20 U.S.C. § 7151, et seq. Gun Free Schools Act of 1994
23 18 U.S.C. § 921 Definitions
24 NCLB, Section 4141 Gun Free Requirements

25 Policy History:

26 Adopted on: April 28, 2014
27 Revised on: May 23, 2016
28 Reviewed on: May 22, 2017
29 Reviewed on: May 22, 2018
30 Reviewed on: June 10, 2019
31 Reviewed on: June 8, 2020