



Forest Ranch Charter School

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Board Policy – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

1. Purpose

- a. The Forest Ranch Charter School Governing Board recognizes that students and staff have a right to a safe and secure campus free from physical and psychological harm. Safety from internal and external threats is a primary concern.
- b. The Forest Ranch Charter School Governing Board recognizes that our location gives us a measure of safety from some of the more frequent threats that challenge schools in more urban settings. That same remote location poses other challenges, such as longer-than-usual response times for Peace Officers.
- c. The purpose of this policy is to ensure, to the best of our ability, that Forest Ranch Charter School staff and students are safe and secure on campus at all times.

2. Possession of Weapons

- a. The Board prohibits any student from possessing weapons, imitation firearms, or other dangerous instruments as defined in law, in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, at school-related or school-sponsored activities away from school, or while going to or coming from school.
- b. Under the power granted to the Board to protect the safety of students, staff, and others on school property and to maintain order and discipline in the school, any school employee is authorized to confiscate any prohibited weapon, imitation firearm, or dangerous instrument from any student on school grounds.
- c. Unless the student has obtained prior written permission as specified below in Section 3, a student possessing or threatening others with any weapon, dangerous instrument, or imitation firearm shall be subject to suspension and/or expulsion according to the FRCS Board Policy 3050 Suspension and Expulsion.
- d. The Director or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities when any student possesses a firearm, explosive, or other prohibited weapon or dangerous instrument without permission, sells or furnishes a firearm, or commits any act of assault with a firearm or other weapon.

3. Advance Permission for Possession of a Weapon for Educational Purposes

- a. The parent/guardian of a student who desires to possess a firearm, imitation firearm, or other prohibited weapon on school grounds for an educational purpose shall, at least five days in advance of the planned possession, submit a written request to the Director which explains the planned use of the weapon and the duration. The student shall also submit a written explanation from the staff person responsible for the school-sponsored activity or class.

- b. The Director may grant permission for such possession when he/she determines that it is necessary for a school-sponsored activity or class or as part of the educational program. Factors that shall be considered include, but are not limited to, the planned use of the weapon, the duration and location of the planned use, whether an audience is expected, and any perceived adverse effects to the safety and well-being of students or staff. If the Director grants such permission, he/she shall provide the student and staff person with a written explanation regarding any limitations and permissible duration of the student's possession.
- c. When the Director or designee grants permission, he/she shall take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all persons on school grounds, including, but not limited to, inspecting the firearm to verify that no live ammunition is present. Any weapon allowed shall be stored in a locked vehicle or in an appropriate, locked container before and after its authorized use.
- d. A student granted permission to possess a weapon may be suspended and/or expelled if he/she possesses or uses the weapon inappropriately.

4. Possession of Pepper Spray

- a. To prevent potential misuse that may harm students or staff, students are prohibited from carrying tear gas or tear gas weapons such as pepper spray on campus or at school activities.

5. Reporting of Dangerous Objects

- a. The Board encourages students to promptly report the presence of weapons, injurious objects, or other suspicious activity to school authorities. The identity of a student who reports such activity shall remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.
- b. The Director or designee shall develop strategies designed to facilitate student reporting of the presence of injurious objects on school grounds, such as tip hotlines, electronic transmissions, or other methods that preserve the student's anonymity. Incident reports and records shall not identify the student who reported the possession. The Director or designee also shall inform staff, students, and parents/guardians that students who report the presence of injurious objects on school campus are to be protected and their identity shielded.

6. Adoption

- a. This board policy was reviewed and adopted by the Forest Ranch Charter School governing board on March 21, 2017.
- b. This board policy was revised and approved on November 15, 2022.
- c. The next annual review will occur on or before November 16, 2023.