

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Related Entries:** COB-RA, COB-EA, COC-RA, COC-EA, COE-EA, COE-EB, JFA, JFA-RA, JGA, JGA-RB, JGA-RC
- Responsible Office:** Deputy Superintendent of School Support and Improvement
Chief Operating Officer
- Related Sources:** Gun Free Schools Act, 20 United States Code, Chapter 70, §18-921; *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Criminal Law Article, §4-102; *Code of Maryland Regulations*, §13A.08.01.12-1

Weapons

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to be followed when weapons are found on Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) property

II. BACKGROUND

Maryland law prohibits firearms, as defined in federal law and MCPS Exhibit COE-EB, *Firearms* (U.S.Code), knives, and deadly weapons of any kind on public school property. In addition, Maryland law gives local school systems the authority to develop and apply more stringent regulations and procedures.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Firearm facsimiles* are gun look-alikes, including any instrument designed to resemble a firearm.
- B. An *MCPS property* is defined as any school or other facility, including grounds owned or occupied by MCPS, MCPS buses, and other MCPS vehicles, and the facility and/or grounds of any MCPS-sponsored activity involving students.
- C. The *principal/designee* refers to the administrator responsible for a school or office as appropriate.

- D. *Weapons* are defined generally as implements that can cause serious bodily harm, and any object used as a weapon, which includes but is not limited to, firearms, knives, metal knuckles, nonchakus, BB guns, paintball guns, and pellet guns.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Any knowledge or reasonable suspicion of unauthorized possession of, or access to a weapon by a person on MCPS property will be reported promptly to the principal or designee.
- B. After appropriate investigation, the principal or designee will determine which course of action the circumstances dictate including—
1. informing the police immediately of the presence of a person possessing or suspected of possessing a firearm and requesting immediate assistance; or,
 2. informing the person possessing or suspected of possessing a weapon other than a firearm of the violation and giving that person a chance to surrender the weapon in a safe manner to the principal or designee.
- C. Principals/designees should exercise discretion in confiscating weapons from students depending on the age of the student, the nature of the circumstances, and the potential for resulting danger.
- D. If the person in possession of the weapon is a student, the parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible by the principal or designee.
- E. Students found to be in possession of firearms, firearm facsimiles, or other weapons on an MCPS site should receive disciplinary action, consistent with Maryland law; the *MCPS Code of Conduct*; MCPS Regulation JGA-RB, *Suspension and Expulsion*; and MCPS Regulation JGA-RC, *Suspension or Expulsion of Students with Disabilities*.
- F. The principal or designee will report the incident to OSSI as soon as possible in accordance with MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident*.

Regulation History: Formerly Regulation No. 230-17, October 1, 1976; directory information updated, January 1983; revised October 9, 1989; revised June 11, 1993; revised October 4, 1996; revised July 20, 1998; revised October 13, 1999; updated office titles June 1, 2000; revised February 10, 2006; revised August 11, 2014.