

## **Possession of/Threat of/Use of Weapons**

### **I. Introduction**

The EL Christian Studies considers student possession of/use of/or threat of the use of weapons as a serious offense and will not tolerate such by students on school property, at school events, or any other time while under the school's jurisdiction. Statements made by a student claiming or boasting of a weapon at school or school event will be dealt with in the same manner as a "threat" below.

### **II. Student Action**

Students who possess a weapon or who carry, exhibit, display, or threaten any of these items apparently capable of producing bodily harm in a manner which, under the circumstances, manifests an intent to intimidate another or warrants alarm for the safety of others shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion for a period of one calendar year. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. After review, the Discipline Committee may recommend to the Board of Education a reduction of the expulsion, which must be supported by mitigating circumstances. Said reduction must be supported by a three-fourths majority of the entire Board. In the absence of such affirmative vote, the one year expulsion will remain in effect.

Students are also prohibited from bringing knives on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school-sponsored activity. The definition of a knife includes, but is not limited to a cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle. If a student brings a knife on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school-sponsored activity, the Principal may, if authorized by the Board, expel the student from school, with the same expulsion implications as noted above.

The Board may extend the right to expel a student for reasons beyond the possession of a firearm or knife. Students who possess or use other dangerous weapons, which are defined but not limited to metal knuckles, straight razors, explosives, noxious irritation or poisonous gases, poisons, drugs or other items possessed with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents or community members, may also be subject to expulsion under this policy.

### **III. Definition**

"Possession" includes, but is not limited to, having a weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored event located: (a) in a space assigned to a student such as a locker or

desk; (b) on the student's person or property (such as on the student's body, in his/her clothing, purse, backpack, gym bag or vehicle); or (c) under the student's control or accessible or available, such as hidden by the student.

"Threat" includes, but is not limited to: (a) a statement of personal bodily harm with a weapon; (b) a statement indicating friends or acquaintances with weapons who will commit bodily harm; (c) or the statement of possessing a weapon at school or a school function.

A "weapon" includes, but is not limited to: (a) a firearm, which is a weapon or device from which a projectile may be fired by an explosive; or (b) an air gun, which includes any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide or other gas, or any items which appear to be realistic firearms or air guns; or (c) a slung shot, which is a piece of metal, or a stone fastened to a short strap, chain or thong, used as a weapon; or (d) a sling shot, which is a forked piece of wood, metal, plastic or similar substance having an elastic band fastened to the prongs for shooting small stones and pebbles; or (e) a sand club, chains or metal knuckles; or (f) a device commonly know as "throwing stars", multi-pointed metal objects designed to embed upon impact; or (g) any knife which is a cutting or stabbing instrument with a sharp blade set in a handle; or (h) a dirk, which is a type of dagger; or (i) any device commonly known as "nunchucks" consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic or similar substance connected with wire, rope or other means; or (j) a stun-gun; or(k) any explosive device including fireworks.

#### **IV. Incident Reporting and Action**

Any faculty member, staff member, or administrator with knowledge of "possession," "threat", or "use of weapons" as described above shall immediately report to the building principal/director/designee, who shall; (a) submit a report to the appropriate jurisdictional police authority, and (b) remove the involved student (s) from school pending full investigation by school and law enforcement authorities.

#### **V. Denial of Admittance to Student under Expulsion from Another District**

EL Christian Studies. will temporarily deny admittance to a student who has been expelled from another school district if the student's expulsion period in that district has not expired. EL Christian Studies. will offer the student a hearing regarding the denial of admittance.

Students who violate this policy more than once will be recommended for permanent exclusion under Ohio law.