

## **WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The Birches Academy strongly discourages any person, except for law enforcement officials or in accordance with a supervised educational program authorized by the School Leadership Team, from bringing a gun, firearm, or any weapon within 1,000 feet of our school buildings, on school property, in vehicles on school property, or at school-sponsored activities or events.

Student possession of weapons [such as but not limited to] firearms, knives, explosives, incendiaries, martial arts weapons (as defined by RSA 159:24), electronic defense weapons (as defined by RSA 159:20), clubs, billies, metallic knuckles or containers containing chemicals [such as pepper gas or mace]. Also, other items used as weapons or objects fashioned to look enough like dangerous weapons that they could be mistaken for an actual weapon is not permitted on school property, on school buses or at school-sponsored activities. Violations of this policy will result in both school disciplinary action and notification of the local Police. Suspension or expulsion could result.

In addition, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm (as defined by 18 US 921) to school will be expelled for not less than one year (365 days). This expulsion may be modified by the Dean of School upon review of the specific case in accordance with other applicable law.

The Dean of School may, upon written application of an expelled pupil, recommend to the Board modification to the expulsion. Prior to the Board of Trustees' consenting to such a modification, the pupil shall be required to submit to the Dean of School sufficient evidence in the form of letters, work history or other documents or testimony demonstrating that it is in the school's best interest and the pupil's best interest to allow a modification. In making such a decision, due regard will be given to other pupils and staff whose safety and well being shall be of paramount importance.

Actual weapons, historical period artifacts, or replicas of weapons may, at times, offer value in enhancing an educational unit of study. In such cases where these items have an instructional purpose, these items may be brought to school by an adult, kept under the supervision of the teacher, and removed from school by an adult. Ammunition is not allowed in school. Any request to bring in such a weapon must be approved by the Dean of School. Transportation and security measures must be pre-arranged with the Dean of School.

All students will receive written notice of this policy once each year.

