

SCHOOL SAFETY AND WEAPONS
ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

ISSUE DATE: 3-13-17

The Board of Education of the Jackson County School District is dedicated to maintaining a safe, secure, and educationally sound environment for its students and staff. Therefore, to ensure safety, security, and an atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning on all campuses, it shall be the policy of the Jackson County School District to protect the confidentiality of any person who provides such information leading to the confiscation of an illegal firearm on a school property as required in MS Code § 37-3-84.

The Jackson County School District shall also be in compliance with the following Mississippi Code: Section 1, of MS Code §97-37-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, which ensures the following:

(1) The following definitions apply to this section of the policy:

- (a) "Educational property" shall mean any public or private school building or bus, public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by any school board, school, college or university board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution or during a school related activity; provided however, that the term "educational property" shall not include any sixteenth section land or lieu land on which is not located a school building, school campus, recreational area or athletic field.
- (b) "Student" shall mean a person enrolled in a public or private school, college or university, or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last five years from a public or private school, college or university, whether the person is an adult or a minor.
- (c) "Switchblade knife" shall mean a knife containing a blade or blades which open automatically by the release of a spring or a similar contrivance.
- (d) "Weapon" shall mean any device enumerated in subsection (2) or (4) of this section.

(2) It shall be a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this subsection does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle or air pistol. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars, or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three years, or both.

(3) It shall be a felony for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than eighteen years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this subsection does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle or air pistol. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars,

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or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three years, or both.

(4) It is prohibited for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razor and razor blades, metal nail files and any sharp pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance on educational property.

(5) It is prohibited for any person to cause, encourage, or aid a minor who is less than eighteen years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic or metal knuckles, razor and razor blades, metal nail files, and any sharp pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance of equipment on educational property.

Any person violating this policy shall be reported to the proper law enforcement.

(6) It shall not be a violation of this section for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol, or other fire arm of any kind on educational property if:

- (a) The person is not a student attending school on the educational property and has a proper license/permit to carry a weapon;
- (b) The firearm is within a motor vehicle; and
- (c) The person does not brandish, exhibit or display the firearm in any careless, angry or threatening manner.

(7) This section shall not apply to:

- (d) A weapon used solely for educational or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in a school-approved program conducted over the supervision of an adult whose supervision has been approved by the school authority (i.e. archery);
- (e) Armed forces personnel of the United States, officers and soldiers of the militia and National Guard, law enforcement personnel, School Resource Officers or any private police employed by the district, State Militia or Emergency Management Corps, and any guard or patrolman in a state or municipal institution, when acting in the discharge of their official duties;
- (f) Home schools as defined in the compulsory school attendance law, Section 37-13-91, Mississippi Code of 1972;
- (g) Competitors while participating in organized shooting events;
- (h) Any person as authorized in Section 97-37-7, while in the performance of

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official duties;

- (i) Any mail carrier while in the performance of his official duties; or
- (j) Any weapon not described by Section 97-37-1, which is in a motor vehicle under the control of a parent, guardian, or custodian, as defined in Section 97-37-1, which is used to bring or pick up a student at a school building, school property or school function.

(8) All schools shall post in public view a copy of the provisions of this section.

Legal References: MS Codes §97-37-17; §37-13-91; §97-37-1