

Policy
Possession of Weapons by Employees

Descriptor Code: GAMB

The Echols County Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe and secure working and learning environment. Unless authorized by the Board of Education or an administrator in accordance with this policy, or specifically authorized by state law, employees shall be prohibited from bringing weapons on any property or in any building owned or leased by the District, at school functions, and on school buses or other transportation furnished by the School District. Employees in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130.1, the Board of Education may authorize certain personnel to possess or carry weapons on any property or in any building owned or leased by the District, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the District, subject to the following conditions:

1. Training of approved personnel shall occur prior to their authorization to carry weapons. The Superintendent will collaborate with the [law enforcement officials](#)~~local Sheriff~~ to determine appropriate training. The training shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent and shall, at a minimum, include training on judgment, pistol shooting, marksmanship, and a review of current laws relating to the use of force for the defense of self or others. Following consultation with the [law enforcement](#)~~ocal Sheriff~~, the Superintendent may substitute for certain training requirements an individual's prior military or law enforcement service if he or she has previously served as a certified law enforcement officer or has had military service which involved similar weapons training.
2. An approved list of the types and quantity of weapons and ammunition authorized to be possessed or carried shall be prepared and maintained by the Superintendent and [provided to law enforcement](#)~~the local Sheriff~~. Personnel who volunteer to carry a weapon must provide their own weapon and ammunition. The weapon and ammunition must be registered and approved [in consultation with law enforcement](#)~~by the local Sheriff~~.
3. Selection of personnel to possess or carry a weapon shall be done strictly on a voluntary basis. The final appointment will be made in consultation with [law enforcement](#) ~~the~~ [local Sheriff](#) by the Superintendent and approved by the Board consistent with the requirements of this policy. Each employee appointed must be licensed under the laws of the state to carry a firearm and shall be subject to an annual criminal history background check. Approval will not be granted for any employee who has had an employment or other history indicating any type of mental or emotional instability as determined by the Board or Superintendent. The Superintendent shall be able at any time to remove or suspend the authority granted to any employee under this policy; and
4. Weapons possessed or carried by personnel under this paragraph shall be secured as follows: Concealed weapons are permitted if they are carried in a holster and not in a purse, briefcase, bag, or similar other accessory which is not secured on the body. If maintained separate from the body, the weapon shall be maintained in a secured lock safe or similar lock box that cannot be easily accessed by students.

In addition to those employees appointed pursuant to this policy, the Board recognizes that other exceptions exist under O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1. All records regarding the appointment of individual employees and the implementation of this program shall be exempt from production under the Open Records Act as specified in Georgia law.

Echols County Schools

Date Adopted: 6/12/2018

| State Reference | Description |
|------------------------|---|
| O.C.G.A 16-11-0127.1 | <u>Carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions or on school property</u> |
| O.C.G.A 16-11-130.1 | <u>Allowing personnel to carry weapons in certain school safety zones and at school functions</u> |

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

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