

**NLSchools** refers to all public K-12 English schools and school-related facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, Education Operations Branch and all employees working therein providing services and supports to such schools, including those who work in the areas of school facilities, student transportation, program implementation, student services, and procurement.

## Policy Name

Weapons

## Policy Statement

The Department of Education believes that safety is an essential element for learning and that students and staff must be free from fear and danger associated with the presence of weapons on school property.

## Scope

This policy applies to all students, employees, visitors, and properties within NLSchools.

## Background

The Department of Education is committed to providing a safe, caring, and healthy school environment. This policy is aligned with the [Safe and Caring Schools](#) Policy.

## Definitions

### Weapons

Anything used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing death or injury, or for threatening or intimidating any person ([Criminal Code R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46](#)). Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, brass knuckles, bear spray, etc.

### Local Emergency Response Authorities

Local Emergency Response Authorities include local police ([Royal Newfoundland Constabulary](#) or [Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#)), fire department and health/emergency authorities and/or other designated community members.

## Policy Directives

1. The School Administrator shall be responsible for ensuring that this policy is communicated early in the school year to all staff, students, parents and community members.
2. All incidents involving weapons shall be investigated by the School Administrator, in consultation with the local emergency response authorities.
3. All incidents involving weapons must be reported to the Superintendent of Schools at the earliest possible opportunity.
4. A student who brings a weapon to a school location or a school-related event, will be suspended pending full investigation of the incident.
5. Students returning to school subsequent to a suspension for weapons-related infractions will receive the supports needed to successfully transition back to school in a manner that is respectful and supportive of the [Safe and Caring Schools](#) focus.
6. Students returning to school subsequent to a suspension for weapons-related infractions will be required to adhere to specific conditions when using equipment and tools authorized for use in instruction within schools and on school property. Inappropriate use of such equipment and tools will result in further disciplinary action.

## Administrative Procedures

1. The school administrator shall ensure that this policy is discussed at a staff meeting early in the school year.
2. The school administrator shall ensure that this policy is communicated to students, parents and community members early in the school year.
3. Any individual who becomes aware of an incident involving weapons on school grounds shall report it immediately to the school administrator.
4. Where the school administrator reasonably determines that an item or substance is a weapon and/or threat to the safety and security of students and staff, the following process will be followed:
  - a) Confiscation of the weapon (if it can be done safely); and/or,
  - b) Call 911/police for assistance.
5. The school administrator may initiate a secure school or lockdown protocol at any time in the process, as deemed necessary. This may be done in consultation with police and/or designated NLSchools personnel.

6. Generally, items or substances considered to be of a dangerous nature should be turned over to the police. However, school administrators may use discretion when it is clear that an object was not brought to school for harmful purposes (e.g. pocketknife). In these cases, the item should be confiscated and the parent notified that the object may be picked up from the school.
7. The Superintendent of Schools should be notified in a timely fashion of any incident involving a weapon.
8. Where it is determined that a student brought a weapon to school, they student will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension. This will be separate from any criminal charges, convictions or penalties imposed.
9. Royal Canadian Air, Army or Sea Cadet Corps/Junior Rangers – Use of School Location for Training Purposes
  - 9.1 The Cadet Corp/Rangers shall submit an annual written request (each school year) to the Superintendent of Schools or designate requesting permission to bring weapons for regular drill or parade purposes and other activities normally associated with their meetings in the school location. This request would normally contain the following:
    - a) An outline of all safety procedures that will be in place throughout the school year including, but not limited to, the use of a trained Range Safety Officer to ensure the safe distribution, collection and removal of weapons at the school location.
    - b) The Cadet Corp/Rangers must ensure, and the request clearly indicate, that the Cadet Corp/Rangers understand that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will not be held liable for any injury or accident which may occur during such training exercises at a school location and that the insurance program for such a training program will cover any damage to school property.
    - c) A trained Range Safety Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all safety procedures related to the use, distribution, collection and removal of weapons are strictly adhered to by cadets at the school location.
  - 9.2 Rifles or guns of any kind or caliber shall not be stored at any school location.
  - 9.3 Air rifles, pellet guns and related equipment are to be brought to and removed from the school location by the designated Range Safety Officer.

**The Cadet Corp/Rangers are responsible for the safe distribution, collection and removal of any weapons, used by the Newfoundland and Labrador Cadet Corp/Junior Rangers, at any school location.**