

The School District of Philadelphia

# **WEAPONS ARE PROHIBITED**

**Pennsylvania law requires that any students, regardless of age or grade level, found to possess a WEAPON on school program or event, or while traveling to or from a school or school program or event (including school buses and public transportation) be ARRESTED AND EXPELLED from the school district for at least one year.**

**The law defines a WEAPON as “any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.” The law does not require that the student use or try to use the weapon prior to arrest and expulsion. Furthermore, weapons carried for self-defense are not exempt from the provisions of the law. Possession includes weapons found on the person as well as in school bags, desks, or locker.**

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