



**Policy 4.02: Safe Schools Policy (Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Weapons)**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 07/13/2009 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/14/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/10/2024

**4.02.1 Prohibition on the Possession of Firearms:** The possession of a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on Board property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored functions is prohibited except for authorized law enforcement personnel and as provided by law. For purposes of this policy, the term “firearm” has the same definition as is found in 18 U.S.C. §921.

- a. *Penalties for Violations* – In addition to any criminal penalties that may be imposed, the following penalties will be imposed for unauthorized possession of firearms:
  1. *Students:* Students will be expelled for a period of one year. The expulsion requirement may be modified in writing by the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis. Discipline of students with disabilities who violate the firearm possession policy will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with federal and state law. Parents of students who violate this policy will also be notified by the principal of violations.
  2. *Employees:* Employees will be subject to adverse personnel action, which may include termination.
  3. *Other Persons:* Other persons may be denied reentry to school property.
- b. *Notification of Law Enforcement* – The appropriate law enforcement authority, which may include the city police, county sheriff, and the local district attorney, will be notified by the principal of violations of this policy.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-1-24.1, 24.3 (1975); ALA. ADMIN. CODE 290-3-1-.02; Federal Gun Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. 7151; Federal Gun Free School Zone Act of 1995, 18 U.S.C. §922(q)]

**4.02.2 Prohibition on the Possession of Weapons:** The possession of a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument in a school building, on school grounds, on school property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored functions is prohibited except for authorized law enforcement personnel. For purposes of this policy, the terms “deadly weapon” and “dangerous instruments” include, but are not limited to, explosives, incendiary devices, projectiles, knives, archery equipment, devices designed to expel projectiles at a high rate of speed, any device so classified under state or federal law, and any device either used or intended to be used in such manner as to inflict bodily harm.

- a. *Penalties for Violations* – In addition to any criminal penalties that may be imposed, the following penalties will be imposed for unauthorized possession of deadly weapons or dangerous instruments:
  1. *Students:* Students will be disciplined in accordance with the Board’s Code of Student Conduct.
  2. *Employees:* Employees will be subject to adverse personnel action, which may include termination.
  3. *Other Persons:* Other persons will be denied reentry to school property.
- b. *Notification of Law Enforcement* – The appropriate law enforcement authority, which may include the city police, county sheriff, and the local district attorney, will be notified by the principal or designee of violations of this policy.

Reference: ALA> CODE 16-1-24.1 (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02 (1)(b)

**4.02.3. Illegal Drugs and Alcohol:** The use, possession, distribution, and sale of alcohol and the illegal use, possession, distribution, and sale of drugs in a school building, on school grounds, on Board property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored functions is prohibited.

- a. *Penalties for Violations* – In addition to any criminal penalties that may be imposed, the following penalties will be imposed for unauthorized possession of illegal drugs or alcohol;
  1. *Students:* Students will be disciplined in accordance with the Board’s Code of Student Conduct.
  2. *Employees:* Employees will be subject to adverse personnel action which may include termination.

3. *Other Persons*: Other persons will be denied reentry to school property.

- b. *Notification of Law Enforcement* – The appropriate law enforcement authority, which may include the city police, county sheriff, and the local district attorney, will be notified by the principal or designee of violations of this policy.

4.02.4 Tobacco: The use of tobacco products and the illegal possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco products on school property is prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco product” is defined to include cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vape pens, hookah pens, e-hookahs, vape pipes and any similar type of device designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals via inhalation, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. “Tobacco use” includes smoking, vaping, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

a. *Penalties for Violations*

- 1. *Students* – Students who violate the tobacco prohibition will be disciplined in accordance with the Board’s Code of Student Conduct.
  - 2. *Employees* – Employees who violate the tobacco prohibition will be subject to adverse personnel action, which may include termination.
  - 3. *Other Persons* – Other persons who violate the tobacco prohibition may be denied reentry to school property.
- b. *Parental Notification* – Parents and guardians may be notified of actual or suspected violations of the tobacco prohibition whether or not the student is charged with a violation of Board policy, which includes the Code of Student Conduct.

Reference: ALA> CODE 16-1-24.1 (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02(1)(b)

4.02.5 Searches: Law enforcement agencies are permitted to make periodic visits to all schools to detect the presence of illegal drugs or weapons and may use any lawful means at their disposal to detect the presence of such substances. The visits will be unannounced to anyone except the Superintendent or designee and principal.

Reference: ALA> CODE 16-1-24.1 (1975); Ala, Admin, Code 290-3-1-.02 (1)(b)

4.02.6 Drug and Alcohol Free Environment: All students, employees, volunteers, parents, visitors, and other persons are prohibited from possessing, using, consuming, manufacturing, or distributing illegal controlled substances and alcohol while on Board property or while attending any Board sponsored or sanctioned event, program, activity or function. Persons who are intoxicated or impaired by the use, consumption, or ingestion of any illegal controlled substance or alcohol are not permitted to be on school property, or to attend or participate in any Board sponsored or sanctioned event, program, activity, or function.

Reference: ALA>CODE 16.1.24.1, 25-5-330 (1975)

4.02.7 Adoption of Statutory Penalties and Consequences: Persons who violate the Board’s prohibition of firearms, weapons, illegal drugs, or alcohol will be subject to all notification, referral, suspension, placement, readmission, and other provision set forth in ALA. CODE 16-1-24.1 and 24.3 (1975).

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