

## **Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School**

### **Policy S23: Weapons Policy**

**Adopted: September 17, 2020**

- I. It is the policy of Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School that a student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district.
- II. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
  - b. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.
- III. Students who possess any weapon described above in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion.
  - a. The School Leader shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the school leader.
  - b. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment.
  - c. In any tribunal decision appealed to the Governance Board, the Board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the school leader and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.
- IV. All employees must report violations of this policy to the school leader immediately. If the school leader has reasonable cause to believe that a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney. The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons.
- V. Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to weapons and possible disciplinary actions.