



Williamsport Area School District

2780 West Fourth Street Williamsport, PA 17701

(570) 327-5500 • www.wasd.org

September 2023

Dear WASD Parent/Guardian,

The Williamsport Area School District Administration and School Board takes its role in ensuring the safety of all students very seriously. During the school year students are reminded through a presentation each marking period on the consequences of being caught with a weapon at school. The district feels it is important that we also remind and educate parents on the weapon policy and laws.

Pennsylvania Law requires that any students, regardless of age or grade level, found to possess a WEAPON on school property, or while traveling to or from a school or school sponsored program or event (including buses), be ARRESTED and EXPELLED from the school district for at least one year. Act 26 (24 P.S. § 13-1317.2)

It is important that parents/guardians understand that the Act 26 law and School Board Policy 218.1 define a WEAPON as:

Any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and/or 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 for them to be arrested or expelled. Possession includes weapons found on a student as well as in school bags, desks, locker, or vehicle.

We are asking that you remind your child of the consequences of possessing a weapon on school property and the danger that it could put themselves or other students in. If your child would accidentally bring any object that could be considered a weapon to school, please remind them that they should immediately bring it to the attention of a staff member so that the principal of the school can safely resolve the matter.

The district appreciates your support in helping us keep our schools safe for students and staff. If you have questions about the school district weapons policy, or Act 26 Law please call the Office of Student Services at 570-327-5500 x40310.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brandon Pardoe

Director of Student Services & WASD Safety and Security Coordinator

Developing responsible citizens through excellence in education.