I. PURPOSE
The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY
No student or non-student, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

GUIDELINES 104 WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

I. DEFINITION
A. “Weapon"

A “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or which through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; airguns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.

No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers, laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

B. "School Location" includes the school building or grounds of Bluffview Montessori School, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the school; locations of school activities or trips; bus stops; school buses or school vehicles; school-contracted vehicles; and the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events; all locations where school-related functions are conducted; and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of Bluffview Montessori School.

C. “Possession” means having a weapon on one’s person or in an area subject to one’s control in a school location.
D. “Full day suspension” means at least a complete day out of school. Suspension will be immediate after processing and the full day of suspension will begin at the start of the following school day.

II. EXCEPTIONS

A. Instructional Equipment/Tools

While Bluffview Montessori School takes a firm "Zero Tolerance" position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students, and a similar position with regard to non-students, such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students or non-students. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use or distribution of weapons. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

B. Police or Military Personnel

It shall not be a violation of this policy if licensed police officers or military personnel who are performing official duties have a weapon on school premises.

C. Firearms in School Parking Lots and Parking Facilities

A school district may not prohibit the lawful carry or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility. For purposes of this policy, the “lawful” carry or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to non-student permit-holders authorized under Minn. Stat., Section 624.714, to carry a pistol in the interior of a motor vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the motor vehicle. Any possession or carry of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder's motor vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.

D. Other Exceptions with Administrative Approval

Other possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, and replica firearms may be allowed with written permission of the principal, for such purposes as a ceremonial color guard, school play, or historical display.

III. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION / USE / DISTRIBUTION BY STUDENTS

E. Bluffview Montessori School takes a position of “Zero Tolerance” in regard to the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, using or distributing items that were designed to be weapons shall include:

1. confiscation of the weapon.
2. parent or guardian notification.
3. immediate one full-day out-of-school suspension.
F. The minimum consequence for students using as weapons objects that have been modified and used as a weapon may at staff or administration discretion include:

1. confiscation of the object.
2. parent or guardian notification.
3. immediate one half-day in-school suspension.
4. a problem-solving session with affected students.

G. Pursuant to Minnesota law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school will be expelled for at least one year. The Board of Directors may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION

While Bluffview Montessori School takes a “Zero Tolerance” position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students, the Head of School may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

Such actions may include but are not limited to:
1. immediate notification of police.
2. recommendation by the Head of School for dismissal not to exceed one year.

V. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION / USE / DISTRIBUTION BY NONSTUDENTS

A. Employees

1. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
2. Sanctions against employees, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority and Bluffview Montessori School policies.
3. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.

B. Other Non-students.

1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to Bluffview Montessori school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school district, that school district may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56. (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.44 (expulsion for possession of firearm)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.05 (referral to police)
Minn. Stat. § 609.66 (dangerous weapons)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605 (trespass)
Minn. Stat. § 609.02, Subd. 6 (definitions of dangerous weapon)
Minn. Stat. § 97B.045 (transportation of firearms)
Minn. Stat. § 624.714 (carrying of weapons without permit penalties)
Minn. Stat. § 624.715 (exemptions; antiques and ornaments)
18 U.S.C. § 921 (definition of firearm)