

Guidelines for Suspension / Dismissal from Extracurricular Activities

The Wallingford Swarthmore School District recognizes and appreciates the importance and value of student participation in extracurricular activities and athletics. Students are reminded that representing one's school as a member of athletic teams, clubs or other student organizations, and/or school officer and leadership positions is a privilege, and are asked to remember that they serve as representatives of the Wallingford Swarthmore School District both while at school and away from school. The Pennsylvania School Code (24 P.S. 5-511) empowers school boards to regulate athletics, publications, and organizations, and to "provide for the suspension, dismissal, or other reasonable penalties" for violations, though the decision to restrict or revoke a student's participation in athletics or other extracurricular activities is not one that is made lightly. While participation in student activities is strongly encouraged, students are reminded that their participation can be suspended or revoked for serious breaches of student conduct that occurs in or away from school in accordance with the guidelines as established below. The conduct and subsequent consequences outlined below are in addition and supplemental to those outlined in Wallingford-Swarthmore School District's Policy 227.

	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
A violation involving the abuse of over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies, prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in substance abuse counseling/education program • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 10 school days suspension from representation in extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in substance abuse counseling/education program • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 30 school days suspension from extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in substance abuse counseling/education program • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 60 school days suspension from extracurricular activities
A violation involving anabolic steroids (consequence mandated by 35 P.S. Sec. 807.1-807.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of above consequences for prescription drugs • Referral to the SAP Program • Suspension from athletics for remainder of season or 30 school days, whichever is greater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of above consequences for prescription drugs • Referral to the SAP Program • Suspension from athletics for remainder of the season and the following season or 60 school days, whichever is greater 	PERMANENT EXPULSION FROM ATHLETICS
A violation that includes persistent disregard for the rules of the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 10 school days suspension from representation in extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 30 school days suspension from extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 60 school days suspension from extracurricular activities
A violation involving controlled substances prohibited by law, solvents/inhalers and other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in substance abuse counseling/education program • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service • 15 school days suspension from representation in extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in substance abuse counseling/education program • Referral to the SAP Program • 60 hours school/community service • 60 school days suspension from extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in substance abuse counseling/education program • Referral to the SAP Program • 30 hours school/community service

substances with similar physiological effect			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 school days suspension from extracurricular activities
<p>A violation that includes any egregious and/or criminal behavior that upon investigation the school administration deems requiring “suspension, dismissal, and/or other reasonable penalties” in accordance with the responsibility and authority granted by the School District in the Pennsylvania School Code as cited above.</p>			

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

On June 30, 1995, Governor Ridge signed into law Act 26, which addresses the issue of weapons possession and violence in schools. School districts are required to take the following actions to be in compliance with this Act.

1. Update district policies to provide for expulsion for at least one year for any student who brings a weapon onto school property. Disciplinary action, short of expulsion for one year, is legal only when recommended by the superintendent of the school district.
2. Report all discoveries of any prohibited weapon on school property to local law enforcement officials.
3. Report all new incidents involving acts of violence or possession of a weapon on school property to the Pennsylvania Department of Education twice during a school year.

Act 26, which became effective in September 1995, defines “weapon” to include, but not be limited to, “any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, numchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.”

It is vital that all parents, guardians, and students be familiar with this law. Items such as Swiss Army knives, which in the past might have innocently been brought to school in a child’s backpack, are, by the definition of this law, considered weapons. Having them on school property, either during school hours or at school-sponsored events, will result in the student’s expulsion.