

**Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union
Middletown Springs Town School District
Tinnmouth Town School District**

**Ira Town School District
Poultney Town School District
Wells Town School District**

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

**CODE F-1
(Mandatory)¹**

Policy

It is the policy of the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and its member districts to maintain a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment. In order to ensure that the school is free from disruptive misconduct, a system of classroom and school management practices, supported by consistent, clear and fair disciplinary procedures, will be utilized. The goal of this policy is to create an environment where the rules for student behavior are clearly stated, are understood and accepted by students and staff, and are applied in compliance with due process requirements. This policy is to be applied in conjunction with the school's overall discipline plan developed pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1161a.

Definitions

- 1) ***Weapon*** means a device, instrument, material or substance whether animate or inanimate, which, when used as it is intended to be used, is known to be capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.¹
- 2) ***School*** means any setting which is under the control and supervision of the School District. It includes school grounds, facilities, and school-sponsored events whether held on or off of school grounds and vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school activities.
- 3) ***Expelled*** means the termination of educational services for the remainder of the school year or up to 90 school days, whichever is longer.²
- 4) ***Knife*** means any instrument that is capable of ready use as a stabbing weapon that may inflict bodily injury or death.

Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each student to contribute to a safe and productive learning environment in the school by demonstrating respect and consideration for fellow students and adults. This includes complying with all policies and rules of conduct of the Supervisory Union, member school districts and individual classrooms.

Administrative Responsibilities

The Principal, in consultation with the educational staff, will develop an overall discipline plan pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1161a.

The plan will include clear guidelines for student behavior. The guidelines for student behavior will include prohibitions against the possession by students of knives, weapons and dangerous instruments while at school, and shall allow disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for violations of the prohibition against knives, weapons and dangerous instruments that are not possessed at school as part of an educational program sponsored or sanctioned by the school.³ Behavioral expectations, and the consequences of misconduct, will be stated in the student handbook and other publications distributed to students and parents/guardians.

Ira School District: Since the Ira School District does not operate a school at any level, it is the policy of the Ira School District to revert back to the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union Policy should a situation arise needing action.

Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. §1161a (discipline)
 16 V.S.A. §1162 (suspension and expulsion)
 20 U.S.C. §§1400 et seq.(IDEA)
 29 U.S.C. §794 (Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
 VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices §4311, 4312, 4313;
 2120.8.12

Cross Reference: Board Commitment to Non-Discrimination (C6)
 Public Complaints About Personnel (D10)
 Interrogations or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement)
 Officers or Other Non-School Personnel (F4)
 Search and Seizure (F3)
 Alcohol and Drug Abuse (F7)
 Weapons (F21)

¹ See 13 V.S.A. §4016(a)(2) for definition of “dangerous or deadly weapon.”

² 16 V.S.A. §1162(a).

³ The “knives, weapons and dangerous instruments” prohibition in this model policy is not required by law. The possession of “dangerous and deadly weapons” on school grounds by any individual is prohibited by 13 V.S.A. §4004. This prohibition does not apply to the possession of firearms in schools for “instructional or other specific purposes.” 13 V.S.A. §4004(c)(2).

	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union	10/8/08	None
Ira Town School District	9/8/09	None
Middletown Springs Town School District	5/22/09	Student Conduct and Discipline 4/2/02 and Weapons
Poultney Town School District	3/24/09	Student Conduct and Discipline 4/25/02 and Weapons 4/25/02
Tinmouth Town School District	6/8/09	Student Conduct and Discipline 2/7/02 and Weapons 8/14/95
Wells Town School District	4/22/09	Student Conduct and Discipline and Weapons