

Concealed Weapons on School Grounds – SB 707

May 14-15, 2016
Delegate Assembly

Keith J. Bray

General Counsel, CSBA & Director, ELA

Robert Tuerck

Director, Policy Development and Maintenance Services

Troy Flint

Sr. Director, Communications/PIO

Concealed Weapons on School Grounds-SB 707

Before January 1, 2016, a licensed concealed weapon holder (LCWH) could carry a weapon on school grounds without the knowledge of any school official

SB 707 (Wolk) changed the law so that a LCWH may carry a weapon without permission within 1,000 feet of school property other than on school grounds

Concealed Weapons on School Grounds-SB 707

SB 707 now requires a LCWH to obtain written permission of the superintendent/designee before a concealed weapon may be carried on school grounds

The affirmative act of granting permission to carry a weapon on school grounds may increase liability so legal counsel and insurance carriers should be consulted

Concealed Weapons on School Grounds – Policy Impacts

Previously addressed in “Safe School Zone” section of CSBA sample Board Policy 3515.2

New CSBA sample Board Policy 3515.7 provides two options for school boards:

1. Prohibit the Superintendent or designee from granting permission to a LCWH to carry a weapon on school grounds
2. Permit a LCWH to request permission to carry a weapon on school grounds in accordance with board policy

Concealed Weapons on School Grounds – Policy Impacts

School boards before deciding whether to permit LCWH's to carry a weapon on school grounds should consider:

1. Who may carry a weapon and under what conditions, if any
2. Whether permission should be re-considered annually
3. What reasons, if any, should be given to obtain permission, such as a background check
4. What kind of firearms should be permitted
5. What grounds would result in permission being revoked
6. What sites and/or activities weapons would be prohibited or limited at, if any

Application to Carry Concealed Weapons on School Grounds

CSBA recommends that any person seeking permission must annually complete, under penalty of perjury, an application providing the district with:

- A copy of the concealed weapon permit
- Information about where the weapon will be carried
- The reason for requesting to carry a concealed weapon on school grounds

Agreement to Carry a Concealed Weapon on School Grounds

CSBA recommends that every LCWH granted permission to carry a weapon on school grounds sign an agreement acknowledging the responsibility to handle and store weapons safely and securely and agreeing to local conditions, if any, to carry the weapon on school grounds.

What's Next from CSBA on SB 707

- CSBA to include the review of the issues arising from SB 707 on its Legal Update webcast in the fall
- A legal guidance on SB 707 will be issued by the end of the school year
- CSBA policy services is interested in reviewing your district policy

Further Considerations on SB 707

Any district considering a LCWH policy should develop a communications strategy that:

- Identifies the rationale for the policy and its connection to student safety and community values
- Prepares for difficult questions from community and media
- Makes information available to the community (e.g. FAQ available online)
- Identifies the training and safeguards that will be put in place
- Provides Board, key central staff, and site leaders with clear, concise messaging on how to address the policy publicly