



No Weapons Policy

Purpose

Atlantic Montessori Charter Schools ("AMCS") is committed to providing a safe, secure, and nurturing learning environment for all students, staff, families, volunteers, and visitors. The safety of our school community is our highest priority.

No student, employee, parent, visitor, volunteer, contractor, or any other individual may possess, display, use, threaten to use, or bring any weapon onto school property, school transportation, or any school-sponsored activity.

This policy applies at all times while on campus, during field trips, extracurricular activities, before and after school programs, VPK, summer programs, and any school-sponsored event.

This policy is implemented in accordance with Florida law, Florida Department of Education Safe Schools requirements, and applicable School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) guidelines.

Definition of a Weapon

For purposes of this policy, a weapon includes, but is not limited to:

- Firearms
- Handguns
- Rifles
- Shotguns
- BB guns
- Pellet guns
- Airsoft guns
- Paintball guns
- Ghost guns
- Starter pistols
- Homemade firearms
- Tasers
- Stun guns
- Knives of any type
- Switchblades
- Hunting knives
- Box cutters
- Razor blades
- Martial arts weapons
- Brass knuckles
- Clubs
- Batons
- Slingshots
- Bows and arrows
- Crossbows
- Spears
- Machetes
- Axes
- Hatchets
- Explosive devices
- Fireworks
- Ammunition
- Chemical sprays intended as weapons
- Any object used or intended to threaten or cause bodily harm.

Any everyday object—including scissors, tools, rocks, sticks, pencils, rulers, or sports equipment—may also be considered a weapon if it is used or intended to threaten, intimidate, or injure another person.

Toy Weapons and Replica Weapons

Although Florida law distinguishes certain toy weapons from actual weapons in some circumstances, Atlantic Montessori Charter Schools maintains a higher standard for elementary-age students to ensure a safe and distraction-free learning environment.

Students **may not bring to school any item that resembles, imitates, or represents a weapon**, including items intended as toys.

Examples include:

Toy Guns

- Nerf® guns
- Foam dart blasters
- Water guns
- Squirt guns
- Super Soakers
- Cap guns
- Plastic pistols
- Toy rifles
- Toy shotguns
- Toy machine guns
- Laser tag guns
- Bubble guns
- Rubber-band guns
- Wooden toy guns
- Homemade cardboard guns
- 3D-printed toy guns

Replica Weapons

- Airsoft guns
- BB guns
- Pellet guns
- Realistic-looking toy firearms
- Replica military weapons
- Replica handguns
- Decorative or collectible firearms
- Training weapons
- Costume weapons that resemble real weapons

Toy Knives and Other Weapons

Students may not bring:

- Toy knives
- Plastic knives
- Rubber knives
- Wooden knives
- Toy swords
- Foam swords
- Pirate swords
- Ninja swords
- Lightsabers
- Toy axes
- Toy tomahawks
- Toy bows and arrows
- Toy crossbows
- Toy grenades
- Toy bombs
- Toy explosives
- Toy nunchucks
- Toy brass knuckles
- Toy shields used aggressively
- Toy spears
- Toy daggers

Costumes and Dress-Up Items

Students may not bring or wear costume accessories that resemble weapons, including:

- Cowboy holsters
- Toy gun belts
- Plastic ammunition belts
- Toy grenades
- Fake knives
- Ninja weapons
- Military replica weapons
- Pirate weapons
- Police toy weapons
- Tactical toy gear intended to imitate weapons

Toys That Represent Violence

The following are also prohibited:

- Action figures holding removable weapons
- Dolls carrying realistic weapons
- Toy soldiers with detachable firearms
- Miniature military weapons
- LEGO® or building-block guns assembled at home and brought to school
- Homemade paper, cardboard, or wooden weapons
- Weapon drawings created for intimidation
- Props intended to frighten or threaten others

Educational classroom materials specifically approved by the teacher for instructional purposes are exempt from this section.

Prohibited Student Conduct

Students shall not:

- Bring a weapon to school.
- Bring a toy weapon to school.
- Bring a replica weapon to school.
- Display a weapon.
- Display a toy weapon.
- Pretend to threaten another person with any object.
- Point any object at another individual as though it were a weapon.
- Pretend to shoot classmates or staff.
- Threaten another person verbally while pretending to possess a weapon.
- Hide or store weapons for another student.
- Encourage another student to bring a weapon.

Searches

If school administrators have reasonable suspicion that a student possesses a prohibited weapon or dangerous object, the school may search:

- Backpacks
- Lunchboxes
- Lockers
- Desks
- Personal belongings
- Student property on campus

Law enforcement may be contacted when appropriate.

Reporting Requirements

Any student who:

- brings a weapon,
- displays a weapon,
- threatens another individual with a weapon,
- possesses a dangerous object,
- or makes threats involving weapons

shall be immediately referred to school administration.

The school will investigate each incident individually and will comply with all required Florida reporting procedures, including SESIR reporting and notification of law enforcement when required by law.

Consequences

Depending on the circumstances, consequences may include:

- Parent notification
- Confiscation of the prohibited item
- Student conference
- Behavioral intervention
- Restorative practices
- Loss of privileges
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Recommendation for expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement
- Mandatory SESIR reporting when applicable

Disciplinary consequences will be determined based upon:

- Student age
- Intent
- Type of object
- Circumstances
- Threat level
- Safety risk
- Applicable Florida law

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Inspect backpacks before students leave for school.
- Ensure prohibited items remain at home.
- Discuss school safety expectations with their child.
- Immediately notify school administration if they become aware of a weapon or safety concern.

Educational Exceptions

The following may be permitted only with prior administrative approval:

- Classroom instructional materials
- Historical demonstrations
- School-approved theatrical productions
- Law enforcement educational presentations
- Authorized school safety training

Statement of School Expectations

Atlantic Montessori Charter Schools believes that every child deserves to learn in an environment where they feel physically and emotionally safe. Even items intended as toys can create fear, disrupt learning, or be mistaken for real weapons. For this reason, **students may not bring any object that resembles or represents a weapon to school**, regardless of whether it is functional.

We ask all families to partner with us by ensuring that all toys, replica weapons, costume weapons, and similar items remain at home. Together, we can maintain a safe, welcoming, and secure learning environment for every Eagle.