

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Weapons on School Grounds

- 1. The law changed on January 1, 2016 allowing citizens with handgun licenses to carry those handguns openly, does this mean that firearms or other weapons can be carried (openly or concealed) into a campus or other school district building?**

No. Texas law prohibits open or concealed carry of firearms and other prohibited weapons on the premises of a school or educational institution. Therefore, it remains illegal under the law (existing and the new open carry law) for any person, including a licensed gun holder, to bring his/her firearm into a campus or other school district building. The new law does not replace the existing Texas Penal Code Section 46.03, which states that a person commits an offense if the person carries a firearm or other prohibited weapon “on the physical premises of a school or educational institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or educational institution.”

- 2. Is it still illegal to bring firearms or other weapons to school functions that occur outside the campus or school district building?**

Yes. It is still illegal for any person, including a licensed gun holder, to carry a firearm or other weapon to school district functions such as sporting events, field trips and board meetings. This includes the grounds, the building and any other areas where the school function is being conducted.

- 3. Can handguns or other weapons be carried (openly or concealed) on campus or district building sidewalks or in parking lots?**

Texas law prohibits the carrying of handguns (openly or concealed) and other prohibited weapons on school grounds or areas if an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted. Therefore weapons are prohibited in these areas during times when a school-sponsored activity is being conducted. For example, parent/bus drop off and pick up areas during arrival and dismissal; sidewalks used for class or group activities; or the school parking lot when used for a school event or activity such as band practice after school. However, during the time when the parking lot is used solely for vehicles, open and/or concealed carry by parents or other visitors is lawful in these areas.

- 4. Are campuses and other school district buildings required to post signage regarding the prohibition against carrying handguns or other weapons in school buildings?**

No, because the law expressly prohibits the carrying of weapons, including licensed handguns (openly or concealed), inside school buildings, any grounds or building where a school-sponsored event/activity is taking place, in school district passenger vehicles, and at Board meetings without posted signage. However, in order to remind all persons who enter school district buildings, signage may be posted advising that weapons, including licensed firearms, are prohibited on the property.

5. Are Cypress-Fairbanks ISD employees, other than police officers, allowed to possess and/or carry handguns (openly or concealed) on school district property?

Other than a police officer, no person (including an employee), may possess or carry a firearm or other weapon into a campus or other school district building. Although a parent/patron may be allowed to possess a licensed firearm in his/her vehicle when the area is not being used for a school-sponsored activity, CFISD as an employer prohibits employees from maintaining weapons, including their firearms, in vehicles while parked on school district property.

SUMMARY: Weapons are **STILL PROHIBITED** inside the campuses and other district buildings or on the property where official school/student/athletic activities are in progress. NOTE: Procedures listed in the district's "Campus Emergency Procedures Quick Guide" are still applicable (see attached), and remember the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Police Department **EMERGENCY IN PROGRESS** number is **832-237-2373**.