

Firearms

The College District prohibits the use, possession, or display of a firearm on College District property or at a College District-sponsored or -related activity in violation of law and College District regulations.

Open Carry

All persons, including license holders, shall be prohibited from openly carrying a handgun on campus premises, including public driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, parking lots, or other parking areas on campus premises. In accordance with law and this policy, the only persons allowed to openly carry a firearm on the College District campus are College District security personnel and commissioned peace officers as defined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Concealed Carry

The College District is committed to providing a safe environment for students, employees, affiliates, and visitors, and to respecting the right of individuals licensed to carry a handgun in the state of Texas. Individuals licensed to carry may do so on College District property except in locations or at school-sponsored activities as prohibited by law or by this policy. This policy applies to all students, employees, campus affiliates, and visitors while on College District property. This policy shall not apply to commissioned peace officers as defined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Definitions

“Affiliates” means short-term or long-term partners or entities, including vendors, with a business relationship with the College District.

“Campus” means all land and buildings owned or leased by the College District.

“Handgun” means any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

“License holder” means a person who is licensed to carry a handgun under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code.

“On or about his or her person” means that a person licensed to carry a handgun must carry a handgun in a manner that the handgun is close enough to the license holder that he or she can reach it without materially changing position.

“School-sponsored activity” means tours, demonstrations, field trips, events, clubs, camps, classes, clinics, programs, and the like held on College District-controlled property that are endorsed by a kindergarten–grade 12 school district or individual school(s) as a curricular, cocurricular, or interscholastic activity.

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*General
Provisions*

A license holder may carry a concealed handgun on or about his or her person on College District campus premises (including public driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, parking lots, and other parking areas) and in College District passenger transportation vehicles, unless prohibited by state or federal law, or by this policy.

In addition, the following shall apply:

1. It is the responsibility of the license holder to be knowledgeable of those areas on the College District campus where carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited.
2. A license holder shall not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun, or intentionally or knowingly display a handgun in plain view of another person, even if holstered, on the campus premises, including public driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, parking lots, or other parking areas on the premises of the College District.
3. A license holder shall not be required to disclose whether he or she has a license or is currently carrying a concealed handgun to anyone except a commissioned peace officer.
4. At all times, the responsibility of maintaining ownership and control of a concealed handgun rests with the holder. When not in the direct possession of the license holder, handguns must be concealed and locked in the owner's private vehicle. The College District shall not provide storage for handguns. Existing lockers, cabinets, closets, and furnishings are property of the College District and shall not be used to store a handgun.

*Exclusionary
Zones*

In accordance with law, the College President is the only person with the authority to declare a specific premise or venue as an exclusionary zone. Therefore, except as provided herein, without the express written consent of the College President, no employee, student, or student group shall be authorized to exclude a specific premise or venue, including, but not limited to, classrooms, laboratories, and offices, as "off limits" to the campus carry policy and associated guidelines. College District exclusionary zones include the following:

1. Tefertiller Hall Health Clinic;
2. Premises where any Board meeting is being held;
3. Premises where any UIL-sanctioned competition is being held; and

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4. College District athletic fields when sporting events are taking place, including, but not limited to, the softball field, the baseball field, the soccer field, the golf course, and the gym.

Notice

Each restricted area shall have a notice posted for license holders in accordance with law. In addition to signage, the College District's website shall include updated information regarding exclusionary zones.

Training and Safety

All current College District employees shall be required to complete training relating to the campus carry policy and active shooter situations. Employees hired after August 1, 2017, shall complete the training as a part of new employee orientation. An online module shall be available in the event a refresher is desired.

In order to improve general campus safety regarding weapons on campus, the College District shall:

1. Maintain a website providing information on the use and prohibition of weapons on campus, including concealed carrying of handguns;
2. Provide educational materials for students and employees regarding concealed carry and active shooter situations; and
3. Post in a number of prominent locations a concise compilation of campus carry information and FAQs.

Reporting

Employees, students, community members, and College District patrons shall immediately report violations of this policy to campus security. Campus security shall maintain a list of all handgun-related incidents and provide an annual report to the College President and the Board.

Amendments

The College President or designee shall have the authority to amend the provisions of this policy as necessary for campus safety. The provisions take effect as determined by the College President or designee unless subsequently amended by the Board.

Other Weapons Prohibited

The College District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon, as defined by law, on College District property or at a College District-sponsored or -related activity, unless written authorization is granted in advance by the College President or designee.

Additionally, the following weapons are prohibited on College District property or at any College District-sponsored or -related activity:

1. Fireworks of any kind;

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2. Incendiary devices;
3. Instruments designed to expel a projectile with the use of pressurized air, such as a BB gun;
4. Razors;
5. Chains; or
6. Martial arts throwing stars.

The possession or use of articles not generally considered to be weapons may be prohibited when the College President or designee determines that a danger exists for any student, College District employee, or College District property by virtue of possession or use.

Violations

Employees and students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action. [See DH, FM, and FMA]

Violations of the concealed carry policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal, probation, suspension, dismissal, and termination. In addition, other state or federal penalties may apply.