

Scope The College District is committed to protecting the health and safety of the College District community, while respecting the rights of its individual members. At all times, it is the intent of the Board to comply with the law without compromising the mission, purpose, or environment of the College District.

Applicability This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, guests, visitors, and individuals and organizations doing business with or on behalf of the College District on College District property. It does not apply to commissioned peace officers, including the College District police department.

Firearms To achieve the educational goals of the College District and ensure the efficient operation of its programs and services, 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/or College District policy or regulations.

Open Carry The open carry of a handgun by all persons, including a license holder, is prohibited on College District premises, including any public driveway, street, sidewalk, walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

Concealed Carry An individual who holds a license to carry ("license holder") may carry a concealed handgun on or about his or her person on College District premises, including public driveways, streets, sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, parking garages, and other parking areas, unless such carry is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law or this policy.

A license holder is responsible for complying with applicable state and federal laws related to the carry of a concealed handgun.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. **Biological Agents:** For purposes of this policy, "biological agents" are living things or products of living things used in instruction or experimentation that have the ability to adversely affect human health. Biological agents include bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other microorganisms.
2. **Concealed:** For the purposes of this policy, a "handgun" shall be considered concealed if it is not openly discernible (noticeable) through ordinary observation.
3. **Counseling:** For purposes of this policy, "counseling" means assisting a client through a therapeutic relationship using a combination of mental health and human development principles, methods, and techniques, including psychotherapy, to

achieve the mental, emotional, physical, social, moral, educational, spiritual, or career-related development and adjustment of the client throughout the client's life. Counseling does not include academic, financial, or career advising.

4. Display of a Handgun: The knowing or intentional display of a handgun in the plain view of a person, even if holstered.
5. Flammable and/or Combustible Materials: For purposes of this policy, "flammable and/or combustible materials" include solids, liquids, or gases that are grouped as either flammable or combustible by their flashpoints (temperature or point of ignition). Examples of combustible materials include, but are not limited to, acetylene, butane, methane, propane, argon, hydrogen, diesel fuel, gasoline, kerosene, acetone, solvents, paint thinners, and certain dusts and powders.
6. Handgun: For purposes of this policy, a "handgun" is any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand. The definition does not include rifles or shotguns.
7. Intentional: A person acts intentionally when it is his or her conscious objective or desire to engage in specific conduct or cause a specific result.
8. Interscholastic Event: For purposes of this policy, an "interscholastic event" includes any function, program, or contest between colleges or primary or secondary schools or representatives thereof.
9. Knowing: A person acts knowingly with respect to his or her conduct or to circumstances surrounding his or her conduct when he or she is aware of the nature of his or her conduct or that the circumstances exist. A person acts knowingly with respect to a result of his or her conduct when he or she is aware that his or her conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result.
10. Lessee: A person or entity who acquires the right to possess and use goods under a lease.
11. License Holder: A person licensed to carry a handgun (formerly called a Concealed Handgun License holder) by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).
12. On or about One's Person: A license holder must carry a handgun in a manner that the handgun is within such distance or proximity that the person could reach it without materially changing his or her position.

SITE MANAGEMENT
WEAPONS

CHF
(LOCAL)

13. Open Carry: The carry of a partially or wholly visible handgun stored in a shoulder or belt holster in plain or partial view and in a public place.
14. Polling Place: The portion of the College District premises in which voting occurs on the day of an election or while early voting is in progress.
15. Premises: A building or portion of a building. Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, the term does not include any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.
16. Property: All land and buildings, and portions of buildings owned or leased by the College District.

Intoxication

A license holder may not carry a concealed handgun on College District property while intoxicated.

Display of Handgun

The intentional or knowing display of a handgun by a license holder in the plain view of another person, even if holstered, is prohibited on College District premises, including on any public driveway, street, sidewalk, walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

Requirement to Display License

A license holder who is carrying a concealed handgun on or about his or her person must display his or her driver's license (or identification certificate issued by the DPS) and the license-to-carry when so directed by a College District police officer.

Except as required by law, an individual is not required to disclose whether he or she is a license holder in order to participate in a program or receive a service offered by the College District.

Right to Disarm

A College District police officer, acting in the lawful discharge of his or her official duties, may disarm a license holder at any time he or she deems such action reasonably necessary for the protection of the license holder, officer, or another individual.

Storage of Handguns

When a license holder is prohibited by state or federal law or this policy from carrying a concealed handgun on a portion of College District property, the license holder may, in accordance with the law, secure the handgun in a locked privately owned or leased motor vehicle.

Exclusionary Zones

A license holder is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun in those locations of the College District where such prohibition is required by law or is necessary based on the nature of the student population, specific safety concerns, or the uniqueness of the College District environment.

SITE MANAGEMENT
WEAPONS

CHF
(LOCAL)

Child-care Centers	In accordance with law, concealed handguns are prohibited on the premises of a facility licensed, certified, or registered by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
Polling Place	Concealed handguns are prohibited on the premises of the College District designated as polling places on the day of an election (federal, state, or local) or while early voting is in progress, in accordance with law.
Sporting or Interscholastic Events	<p>Concealed handguns are prohibited on the premises of the College District where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place, unless the handgun is used in the event by a license holder who is a participant in the event, in accordance with law.</p> <p>Concealed handguns are prohibited where a sports club or intramural athletic event is taking place or at a location where an athletic/sports activity is taking place and a majority of the participants in the activity are under age 18.</p>
Board Meetings	In accordance with law, concealed handguns are prohibited in the room or rooms where a meeting of the College District Board of Trustees is held and if the meeting is an open meeting subject to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.
Counseling Services	Concealed handguns are prohibited on the premises of the College District where licensed professional counselors engage in the practice of counseling, as defined by this policy and as required by their job description or essential job duties.
Health-care Facilities	Concealed handguns are prohibited on the premises of the College District where health-care services are provided. This prohibition includes traditional health-care services (i.e., first-aid and emergency care), as well as where community health-care, disease prevention, health awareness, health education, screenings, and health counseling are provided; allied health labs; and other areas of the College District when and where, as part of the instruction, health-care services are delivered by or under the supervision or direction of a licensed health-care provider.
Laboratories and Potentially Hazardous Areas	<p>Concealed handguns are prohibited:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On the premises of the College District where flammable and/or combustible materials or biological agents, as defined by this policy, are present and/or utilized;2. On the premises of the College District when and where, as part of the instruction provided in a College Veterinary Tech Program, animals are used and/or cared for under the supervision or direction of a licensed veterinary technician;

SITE MANAGEMENT
WEAPONS

CHF
(LOCAL)

3. On the premises of the College District where substances designated as “immediately dangerous to life and health” are present and access is restricted to College District personnel in the discharge of their duties; and
4. On the premises of the College District where equipment that is incompatible with metallic objects is present, such as magnetic resonance imaging machines.

Prekindergarten
–Grade 12
Programs /
Activities

Concealed handguns are prohibited in locations of the College District when and where a prekindergarten–grade 12 school or College District-sponsored program or activity is conducted.

This prohibition includes College District-sanctioned youth camps and programs for which specific objectives are designated for prekindergarten–grade 12 students and that utilize College District facilities that may include, but are not limited to, classroom, dining, meeting, and recreation spaces.

Designated employees or volunteers of the College District who work in a prekindergarten–grade 12 school or College District-sponsored program or activity or a College District-sanctioned prekindergarten–grade 12 youth camp or program must, as a condition of their participation, agree not to carry a concealed handgun on the grounds or on the premises where the program, activity, or camp is taking place.

Fitness Center /
Facility

Concealed handguns are prohibited on the premises of the College District used to facilitate, instruct, or provide a physical exercise program or activity. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, gymnasiums, physical fitness labs or centers, swimming pools, shower areas, recreational and/or sports courts, saunas, whirlpool baths, locker rooms, weight rooms, and equipment rooms located within or in immediate proximity to a location used for such a purpose.

College District
Vehicles

Concealed handguns are prohibited in a vehicle owned or leased by the College District and used by a College District employee in the course and scope of the employee's employment, unless the employee is required to transport or store a firearm in the official discharge of the employee's duties.

By Law or
Contract

Concealed handguns are prohibited where state or federal law, licensing requirements, or contract, at the sole discretion of the state or federal government or contracting entity, requires such exclusion and the exclusion does not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying concealed handguns on College District property.

SITE MANAGEMENT
WEAPONS

CHF
(LOCAL)

	<p>Exclusion areas under this provision may include certain leased spaces on College District property, as determined by the lessee.</p>
<p>Event Specific</p>	<p>Concealed handguns are prohibited at large-scale and/or ticketed events of the College District for which the carry of concealed handguns poses heightened safety concerns, or is prohibited by contract or lease agreement. [See By Law or Contract, below] This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, college and high school graduations.</p>
<p>Formal Grievance Proceedings</p>	<p>Concealed handguns are prohibited in those designated locations of the College District when and where formal grade disputes, disciplinary proceedings, and/or grievance proceedings are conducted pursuant to established employee and student discipline/grievance procedures.</p>
<p><i>Temporary Exclusionary Zone</i></p>	<p>Concealed handguns may be prohibited on a case-by-case basis, in any location and/or for a period of time as deemed reasonably necessary by the Chancellor or designee to ensure the safety of the College District community. The following factors may give rise to a temporary prohibition of concealed handguns under this provision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An activity that due to its subject matter or history is likely to incite violence;2. An activity or program, where, due to the presence of alcohol, a specific threat of violence, the uniqueness of the environment, or other safety considerations a reasonable threat to the health or safety of the College District community exists;3. Periods in which it reasonably appears that there is a threat of destruction to College District property, of injury to human life, or a threat of willful disruption of orderly operation of the College District; and4. Upon receipt of a credible information of imminent injury to human life or destruction to College District property.
<p><i>Notice</i></p>	<p>The College District shall provide notice, in accordance with law and College District regulations, at all locations and activities where concealed handguns are prohibited by this policy and/or law.</p>
<p><i>Policy Review</i></p>	<p>The provisions of this policy shall be null, void, and of no force and effect on or after October 15, 2019, unless the Board has taken action before such date to renew, extend, modify, or change such policy. Nothing contained herein shall prevent or prohibit the amendment, modification, suspension, or repeal of this policy before such date as may be determined necessary by the Board.</p>

**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 Chancellor 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;
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 Chancellor or designee determines that a danger exists for any student, College District employee, or College District property by virtue of possession or use.

Violations

Individuals found to be in violation of this policy or applicable law may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion, termination of employment, severance of a business relationship, and/or criminal prosecution.