

**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  
Prohibited

All persons, including license holders, are prohibited from openly carrying a handgun on the campus premises, including any public driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area on the campus premises.

Concealed Carry  
*Definitions*

Definitions of terms used in this policy shall be as follows:

1. "Activities" means all functions, events, and programs on College District premises.
2. "Biological hazard," for purposes of this policy, means a biological substance used in research or experimentation that poses a threat to the health of a living organism, primarily that of a human, and is classified as biosafety level (BSL) 3 or 4 by the Center for Disease Control.
3. "Campus premises" means all land, buildings, and portions of buildings owned or leased by the College District.
4. "Campus housing" means a residential facility owned or leased and operated by the College District and located on the campus premises.
5. "Collegiate sports" means intercollegiate, club, and intramural athletic activities occurring on the campus premises.
6. "Concealed handgun" means a handgun, the presence of which is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.
7. "Days" means business days.
8. "Employee" means an individual at any component of the College District, who is hired in a full-time, part-time, or temporary capacity in a faculty or staff position or in a position where the individual is required to be a student as a condition of employment.
9. "Handgun" means any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.
10. "Interscholastic event" means a function or program involving elementary or secondary schools.
11. "License holder" means a person issued a License to Carry a handgun (formerly called a "Concealed Handgun License") by

the Texas Department of Public Safety in accordance with law.

12. "Store" means to take steps that a reasonable person would take to prevent access to a firearm, including but not limited to, placing a firearm in a locked container. For purposes of this policy, a firearm that is temporarily rendered inoperable by use of a trigger lock or other means is not stored.

<i>Right to Carry</i>	A license holder may carry a concealed handgun while on the campus premises (including public driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, and parking lots) and in College District passenger vehicles, unless prohibited by state or federal law, or by this policy. License holders are responsible for knowing areas where carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited but where notice is not required to be posted.
<i>Intoxication</i>	A license holder shall not carry a concealed handgun while intoxicated.
<i>Display of a Concealed Handgun</i>	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, or parking lots on the premises of the College District.
<i>Requirement to Display License</i>	A license holder must display his or her License to Carry when directed by a law enforcement officer in accordance with law. An individual shall not be required to disclose whether he or she is a license holder in order to participate in any program or service offered by the College District, except as required by law.
<i>No Prejudice</i>	A license holder shall not be subject to prejudice or other retaliation for lawfully expressing his or her right to carry a concealed handgun.
<i>College District Employees</i>	An employee who lawfully holds a License to Carry may carry a concealed handgun into his or her work area, unless prohibited under this policy, but is not authorized to use the weapon in the course and scope of performing his or her duties. An employee whose possession, storage, or use of a handgun results in personal injury or property damage is personally liable for the injury or damage, because the employee is acting outside the course and scope of his or her duty, and is not entitled to immunity provided in law or any other immunity the individual may otherwise be entitled to as a College District employee.
<i>Campus Housing Residents</i>	A license holder who resides in campus housing may carry a concealed handgun into campus housing and may store the weapon in his or her residential room except during periods between the

spring and fall semesters when the facility may host summer camps attended by minors.

A resident who brings a concealed handgun into campus housing shall carry the weapon on his or her person at all times or store it in his or her residential room.

A handgun may be stored only in a residential room, as defined in this policy, and in a locked container installed or approved by the College District.

A resident may not intentionally or knowingly display a handgun in plain view of another person in campus housing except as necessary to properly store the weapon in his or her residential room.

**Non-Residents** A license holder who does not reside in campus housing may carry a concealed handgun into campus housing except during periods between the spring and fall semesters when the facility may host summer camps attended by minors.

The handgun must be carried on the nonresident's person at all times and may not be stored in a campus housing room.

**Personal Liability** A resident or nonresident whose possession, use, or storage of a handgun results in personal injury or property damage is personally liable for the injury or damage.

**Prohibited Areas** A license holder is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun onto the campus premises where prohibited by law and where prohibited by this policy based on the nature of the student population, specific safety concerns, and uniqueness of the campus environment. Concealed handguns are prohibited:

1. At a location where the meeting of a governmental body is being held;
2. At the location of a disciplinary or grievance hearing conducted by College District employees;
3. At a location where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place in accordance with law, or where a sports club or intramural athletic competition is taking place;
4. At a location designated as a polling place on the day of a federal, state, or local election, including while early voting is in progress in accordance with law;
5. In a location where substances designated as "immediately dangerous to life and health" are present, access is restricted

to individuals who perform research or duties, and a sealed and filtered environment is essential;

6. In a laboratory where biological hazards, as defined by this policy, are present; and
7. Where state or federal law or contract, at the sole discretion of the state or federal government or organization with whom the contract is entered, requires exclusion of a handgun in a specific location and the exclusion does not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying concealed handguns on the campus premises, such as the Testing Center.

*Temporary Prohibitions*

The College President or designee may prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns for up to seven days in order to promote safety on the campus premises in accordance with the following:

1. When the activity has a history for violence; or
2. Where a large-scale activity, due to the uniqueness of the campus environment, specific threat of violence, or other safety considerations present a reasonable threat to health or safety.

The College President or designee may prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns on the campus premises in accordance with the following:

1. When it reasonably appears there is a threat of injury to human life, destruction to College District property, or willful disruption of orderly operation of the College District in accordance with law; or
2. Upon receipt of credible information of imminent injury to human life or destruction to College District property.

*Request for Review*

A license holder may request review of the decision to temporarily prohibit the carrying of a concealed handgun. The request shall be submitted in writing to the reviewing official and describe why allowing concealed handguns at the location or activity does not present a safety concern. The reviewing official may request additional information and shall notify the license holder of the decision no later than two days after receiving the request for review. The notice must provide the reason(s) for the decision. The decision of the reviewing official is final.

*Notice*

The College District shall provide notice at all locations and activities where concealed handguns are prohibited under this policy and may post notice where handguns are expressly prohibited but

where notice is not required to be posted by law. The language of the notice, which is set out in law, shall not be altered in any way unless revised by state law. Any individual who without authorization, tampers with, defaces, modifies, or removes a notice provided pursuant to this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including trespass from campus, suspension, termination of employment or a business relationship and is subject to criminal prosecution.

The College District shall publish this policy annually in the Board policy manual and student handbook, and on a webpage dedicated to the carrying of concealed handguns on College District premises.

Contracts for use of the campus premises shall include pertinent provisions of this policy.

*Distribution of Policy*

This policy shall be widely available and distributed to all employees and students through the College District website, student and employee handbooks, student and employee trainings, MyRebel, new hire orientation, and other appropriate events and materials as requested.

*Amending Policy*

The College President may amend this policy as necessary to include permanently designating new or additional locations where the carrying of concealed handguns on campus premises is prohibited. Any prohibition shall be based on specific safety considerations, the nature of the student population, and the uniqueness of the campus environment and may not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying concealed handguns on campus premises.

A request to amend this policy to permanently prohibit the carrying of a concealed handgun must be submitted, in writing, to the College President or designee. The request shall describe the specific factual reasons for the permanent designation, including safety concern(s), the nature of the student population, and any unique features or circumstances related to the building, part of a building, or activity that regularly takes place in the building. The request should identify other locations of the campus or activities with similar characteristics where concealed handguns are prohibited. The request and proposed amendment shall be posted on the College District's webpage dedicated to the carrying of concealed handguns. Interested individuals shall be given a reasonable time and opportunity to comment on the request. Students, faculty, and staff shall be given the opportunity to comment in person before the proposed amendment is submitted to the College President for approval.

Any amendment to this policy that has the effect of restricting the lawful carrying of a concealed handgun by a license holder must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of the College President's approval, and shall not take effect until reviewed by the Board.

*Report to  
Legislature*

The College District shall prepare a report for the Texas Legislature describing the campus rules adopted to regulate the carrying of concealed handguns on campus and the reasons for the rules no later than September 1, 2018, and every even-numbered year thereafter. The report will be submitted to the College President prior to submission to the Legislature.

**Other Weapons  
Prohibited**

The College District prohibits the use, possession, or display of any illegal 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;
2. Incendiary devices;
3. Instruments designed to expel a projectile with the use of pressurized air, like 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]