



Policy Source: Gwinnett Tech	Owner: Chief of Police	Effective: 1996
Division: Technology & Operations		Reviewed: 7/04, 8/2009, 2/2010, 12/2020 Revised:

**7.3.19 GT Weapons Procedure**

During the employee orientation process and the student admission process, employees and students shall be informed that bringing, possession, or having under their control any firearm, explosive material, or other dangerous weapon on school premises is prohibited. Frequent reminders during faculty or student meetings, notices in student and employee handbooks, notices in hallways, posters, etc., shall be used to remind students and employees of the prohibition of dangerous weapons on school property.

Gwinnett Technical College adopts, supports and adheres to State Law pertaining weapons. The following code section from the Official Code of Law from the State of Georgia is hereby policy and procedure for Gwinnett Technical College.

**1. Intent**

It is the intent of this policy: (a) to create a safe educational environment; (b) to prohibit the carrying of weapons within school safety zones as prohibited by law; (c) to create an awareness of this policy and related penalties; (d) to establish definitions; and (e) to establish procedures for dispositions of violations.

**Definitions**

- a. "School safety zone" means in, on, or within 1000 feet of any public technical institute.
- b. "Weapon" means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, and other knife having a blade of three or more inches, straight-edge razor, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, or whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star, oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, any stun gun or laser. "Weapon" does not include any fireworks the possession of which is regulated by Chapter 10 of Title 25 of Georgia Law.

- c. "Public gathering" means and includes, but is not limited to, any function or event of or at any technical institute, its campus, satellites, buildings, vehicles or involving its employees or students. Such buildings include any public-owned, -leased, or – operated building which houses any governmental or educational function on or off campus.

## 2. Policy

- a. It is unlawful for an individual to bring to, possess, or have under such person's control, any explosive compound, firearm, or knife designed for the purpose of offense or defense while at a public gathering (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127). **Having a license to carry a pistol is no justification under this policy.**
- b. It is unlawful for any person to carry or to possess or have such person's control while within a school safety zone or at a technical institute building, function, or property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by any technical institute any weapon or explosive compound.

The provisions of this prohibition shall not apply to those individuals who are specifically exempted by law, including, but not limited to:

- Teachers and other school personnel who are otherwise authorized to possess or carry weapons, provided that any such weapon is in a locked compartment or a motor vehicle or one which is in a locked container or in a locked firearm rack which is on a motor vehicle;
- A person employed as a campus officer or police officer who is authorized to carry a weapon, Chapter 8 of Title 20;
- A person who has been authorized in writing by the Commissioner or a technical institute president to have in such person's possession or use as part of any activity being conducted at a school building, school property, or school function a weapon which would otherwise be prohibited by O.C.G.A. 16-11-127. Such authorization should be issued after consultation with the Attorney General's Office and shall specify the weapon(s) authorized and the time period of authorization.
- A person, licensed under O.C.G.A. 16-11-129 or permitted under 43-38- 10, when such a person carries or picks up a student at a school building, school function or in a bus or other transportation furnished by the school;
- An individual who has a weapon legally within a vehicle in transit through designated school zone by any person other than a student.

A weapon which is in a locked compartment of a motor vehicle or one which is in a locked container or in a locked firearms rack which is on a motor vehicle which is being used by an adult over 21 years of age to bring to or pick up a student at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school, or when such vehicle is used to transport someone to an activity being conducted on school property which has been authorized by an adult authorized official of the school; providing, however, that this

exception shall not apply to a student attending such school;

- Medical examiners, coroners and their investigators;
- Peace Officers as defined at O.C.G.A. 35-8-2;
- Federal law enforcement officers;
- State or federal prosecuting attorneys;
- Employees of the Department of Corrections, Pardons and Paroles, or the Attorney General's Office who are specifically authorized in writing to carry a weapon by their agency head;
- Clerk of Superior Court;
- Public safety directors of municipal corporations;
- Persons employed in fulfilling federal defense contracts when possession is necessary under such contract.

This prohibition shall apply to:

- Equipment for legitimate athletic purpose;
- Participants in organized sport shooting events or firearm training courses;
- Participants in authorized military or law enforcement training programs.

### **3. Responsibility**

- a. The institute is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented and to develop procedures to inform employees and students of the following:
  - The implications of State law O.C.G.A. 16-11-127 pertaining to weapons at a public gathering.
  - Possible penalties to be imposed upon employees or students who violate this weapons policy.
  - Reporting such violations to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

### **References**

[Procedure: Weapons Procedure](#)  
[II. C. 10. Weapons](#)