 **No. 215.2**

 **SECTION: PUPILS**

**TITLE: STUDENT DISCIPLINE- WEAPONS**

**MEDICAL ACADEMY ADOPTED: 10/8/13**

**CHARTER SCHOOL REVISED:**

 215.2 STUDENT DISCIPLINE- WEAPONS

This policy has the purpose of prohibiting students from possessing weapons on school property or at school activities, and providing for investigation and notification procedures in the event of a report of or suspicion of the presence of a weapon on school property or at a school activity

The term “Possession of a Weapon” means when a weapon is found on the person of a student, or under a student’s control, on school property or at any school activity, including any school activity held away from the school property, or while the student is on the way to or from the school property or on any school bus or public or private vehicle providing transportation to or from school property or a school activity.

The term “School Property” means all buildings, facilities, parking areas and grounds owned or under the control of Medical Academy Charter School.

The term “Weapon” shall include, but not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, air rifle, B.B. gun, pellet gun, or any pistol version thereof, explosives or fireworks, brass knuckles or other such devices and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term "Weapon" shall also include items which are replicas or look-alike weapons, whether or not actually capable of inflicting bodily injury and whether or not sold as toys, if the item could by virtue of its appearance or the manner in which displayed cause reasonable apprehension of bodily injury or a threat to a safe school environment.

Any student found in possession of a weapon, regardless of intent, shall have committed an offense under this Policy.

Any school employee who suspects or ascertains that a student is in possession of a weapon shall immediately inform an administrator who will conduct a complete investigation. Upon reasonable cause for suspicion of possession of a weapon, the administrator may perform a search of the student, the student’s locker and the student’s vehicle, if applicable, pursuant to

215.2 STUDENT DISCIPLINE- WEAPONS- pg.2

In addition, the administrator shall have full discretion to request intervention by the police to perform such searches or to take other appropriate action.

Upon confiscation of a weapon, or confirmation that a student is in possession of a weapon, the administrator must immediately notify and/or summon:

1. the local police;

2. the parents of any student involved in the incident.

The Principal/CEO shall also provide such information regarding the offense as may be required by the Office for Safe Schools of the Department of Education.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1317.2 of the Pennsylvania School Code, any student found in possession of a weapon shall be expelled for not less than one year. The Principal/CEO retains prosecutorial discretion and may, therefore, recommend modifications of such expulsion on a case-by-case basis. The Principal/CEO shall, in the case of an exceptional student, take all steps necessary to comply with all laws applicable to exceptional students. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the authority of the Board to make an alternative assignment or provide alternative education services during the period of expulsion.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to the possession of a weapon, approved in advance by the Principal/CEO, being used as part of a school program by a student who is participating in the program.