



Weapons In School Report: 2010–11 School Year

Summary

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to report annually to the Legislature the number of incidents in violation of RCW 9.41.280, which involves the possession of weapons on school premises, transportation systems, or in areas of facilities while being used exclusively by public or private schools.

Authorizing Statutes

[RCW 28A.320.130](#)

[RCW 9.41.280](#)

[RCW 9.41.250](#)

[RCW 9A.04.110](#)

Background

The Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA) was originally enacted on March 31, 1994, as part of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (Public Law 103-227). The GFSA was reauthorized on October 20, 1994, as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382), and again reauthorized as part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110). The GFSA requires each state receiving federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds to have in effect a state law requiring school districts to expel from school for a period of not less than one year a student who was determined to have brought a weapon to school. The GFSA also requires that the state's law allow the chief administering officer of the student's school district to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Washington State enacted the Weapons In Schools legislation in 1994 in response to the federal GFSA requirement. The Weapons In Schools legislation was modified in 1997 to include "look alike firearms" allowing a school district to suspend or expel a student for up to one year if the student acts with malice as defined under RCW 9A.04.110 and displays an instrument that appears to be a firearm on public elementary or secondary school premises, public school-provided transportation, or in areas of facilities that are being used exclusively by public schools.

The 2010–11 data, which is summarized below, were collected by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) from the 295 schools districts in the state as required by RCW 9.41.280. The ten-year trend data reflects an ongoing decline in weapons incidents, with firearms remaining at a consistent level over time. District-level data may be accessed at: www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/Weapons/default.aspx.

Randy I. Dorn
State
Superintendent
of Public
Instruction

OSPI
Old Capitol
Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA



WASHINGTON STATE WEAPONS IN SCHOOL DATA
2010–11 SCHOOL YEAR

PUBLIC SCHOOL WEAPONS–INCIDENTS

No. of Districts	No. Reporting	Hand-guns	Rifles Shotguns	Other Firearms	Multiple Firearms	Total Firearms	Knives Daggers	Other Weapons	Total Incidents
295	295 (100%)	45	7	51	0	103	1,322	564	1,989

PUBLIC SCHOOL WEAPONS–SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

The number of suspensions and expulsions for weapons during the 2010–11 school year are shown below. One weapon incident may involve the suspension or expulsion of more than one student.

No. of Districts	No. Reporting	Hand-guns	Rifles Shotguns	Other Firearms	Multiple Firearms	Total Firearms	Knives Daggers	Other Weapons	Total Incidents
295	295 (100%)	45	7	83	0	135	1,890	761	2,786

PRIVATE SCHOOL WEAPONS–SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

No. of Schools	No. Reporting	Hand-guns	Rifles Shotguns	Other Firearms	Multiple Firearms	Total Firearms	Knives Daggers	Other Weapons	Total Incidents
566	403 (71%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

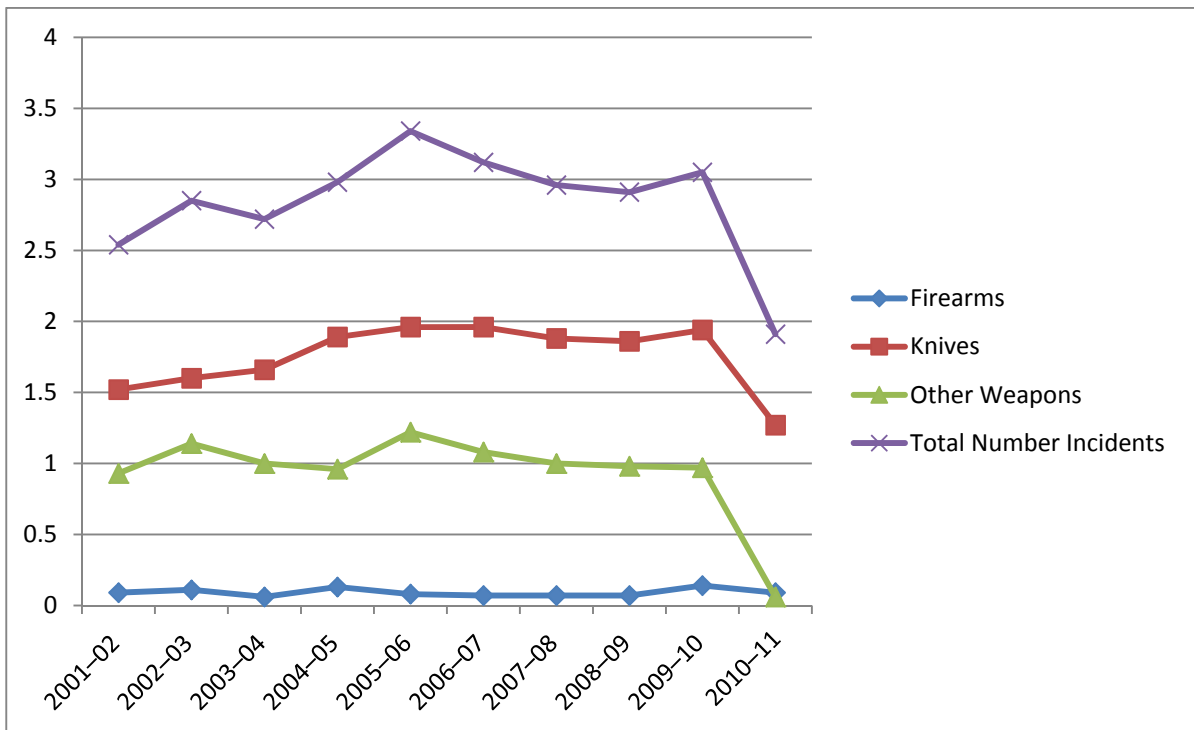
WEAPONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: 10-YEAR TREND

Number of Incidents per 1000 students

School Year	Firearms	Knives	Other Weapons	Total Number Incidents
2001-02	0.09	1.52	0.93	2.54
2002-03	0.11	1.60	1.14	2.85
2003-04	0.06	1.66	1.00	2.72
2004-05	0.13	1.89	0.96	2.98
2005-06	0.08	1.96	1.22	3.34
2006-07	0.07	1.96	1.08	3.12
2007-08	0.07	1.88	1.00	2.96
2008-09	0.07	1.86	0.98	2.91
2009-10	0.14	1.94	0.97	3.05
2010-11	0.09	1.27	0.06	1.91

WEAPONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: 10-YEAR TREND

Number of Incidents per 1000 students



For more information, please contact the School Safety Center Office at (360) 725-6044 or Governmental Relations at (360) 725-6019. The agency TTY number is (360) 664-3631.