



## School Discipline Policies

### When is a school required to involve law enforcement on school grounds?

May 2021

Most states require criminal behavior, firearm/weapon possession and controlled substance possession/use to be reported to law enforcement. At least three states (Massachusetts, New York and Oklahoma) require reporting certain instances of bullying to law enforcement.

This data point examines when state statute or regulation requires schools to involve law enforcement agencies and personnel and for which offenses or matters. Involving law enforcement may include reporting specific offenses or actions to a law enforcement agency and/or requiring law enforcement personnel to address infractions on school grounds.

Note: In this resource, “controlled substances” could refer to drugs, alcohol, tobacco or any combination of these. Similarly, references to firearm/weapons could refer to just firearms, just weapons or both. Please use the citations given to find more specific language on these policies.

In addition to involving law enforcement in certain offenses, many districts and schools use school resource officers to address infractions on school grounds. Our 50-State Comparison on School Safety includes information on state policies around [school resource officers](#), including definitions, certification requirements and training requirements. To view other data points in this resource, click [here](#). The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

STATE	When is a school required to involve law enforcement on school grounds?	Source
Alabama	Violations concerning: drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm or threat of physical harm, and violent disruptive incidents.	Ala. Code § 16-1-24 Ala. Code § 16-1-24.1 Ala. Code § 16-1-24.3

STATE	When is a school required to involve law enforcement on school grounds?	Source
Alaska	Violations concerning: possession of a firearm.	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.160
Arizona	Violations concerning: commission of a crime; firearm/weapon possession/use; physical harm or threat of physical harm.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-341 Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-515
Arkansas	Violations concerning: acts of violence, crimes involving a deadly weapon	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-113
California	Violations concerning: criminal acts.	Cal. Educ. Code § 48902
Colorado	Violations concerning: assault upon, disorderly conduct toward, harassment of, false allegations of child abuse against, or any alleged offense under the state criminal code directed toward a school employee.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109.1
Connecticut	Violations concerning: physical assault on school employees	Conn. Gen. State. Ann. § 10-233g
Delaware	Violations concerning: criminal behavior	Code Del. Regs. 14 616
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Florida	Violations concerning: incidents of hazing.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1006.135
Georgia	Violations concerning: firearm/weapon possession.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-1184
Hawaii	Violations concerning: class A or B offenses, as defined in statute, where perceived danger exists that cannot be handled by school staff.	Haw. Code R. 8-19-19
Idaho	Violations concerning: controlled substance use.	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-210
Illinois	Violations concerning: attacks on school personnel	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-21.7
Indiana	Violations concerning: firearm/weapon possession.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-16

STATE	When is a school required to involve law enforcement on school grounds?	Source
Iowa	Violations concerning: controlled substance possession, firearm/weapon possession.	Iowa Code Ann. § 280.17A Iowa Code Ann. § 280.24
Kansas	Violations concerning: commission of a crime, firearm/weapon possession.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6132 Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6143
Kentucky	Violations concerning: assault, controlled substance possession/use, destruction of property, firearm/weapon possession, kidnapping, sexual assault.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.154
Louisiana	Violations concerning: criminal conduct related to bullying (if appropriate), firearm/weapon possession. Certain materials confiscated in a search of a student or their possessions must be reported to law enforcement.	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14:95.2 La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416.13 La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416.3
Maine	Violations concerning: firearm/weapon possession	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 1001
Maryland	Violations concerning: delinquent acts, firearm/weapon possession, student conduct constituting an offense after the completion of an investigation.	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-303.1 Md. Code Regs. 13A.08.01.15 Md. Code Regs. 13A.08.01.12-1
Massachusetts	Violations Concerning: bullying, retaliation for reporting bullying if criminal charges can be filed	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. 71 § 37O
Michigan	Violations concerning: firearm/weapon possession	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1313
Minnesota	Violations Concerning: firearm/weapon possession	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.05
Mississippi	Violations Concerning: unlawful activity, firearm/weapon possession, drug use/possession, assault, rape, sexual assault and child sexual assault, murder, kidnapping.	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29
Missouri	Violations concerning: certain criminal behavior	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.261
Montana	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-202

STATE	When is a school required to involve law enforcement on school grounds?	Source
Nebraska	Violations concerning: Criminal behavior, firearm/weapon possession	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1204.04 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-293
Nevada	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Hampshire	Violations concerning: certain instances of physical harm, destruction of property, firearm/weapon possession, or theft.	N.H. Rev. Stat. § 193-D:4 N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed 317.03
New Jersey	Violations concerning: Assault with weapon, controlled substance possession/sale/use, possible violation of criminal code.	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-2.2 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:37-2.3 N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:16-4.3
New Mexico	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New York	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession for students 16 years of age or older and 14 or 15 year olds who qualify for juvenile offender status; and instances of bullying, discrimination or harassment that constitute criminal conduct.	N.Y. Educ. Laws § 3214 N.Y. Educ. Laws § 13
North Carolina	Violations concerning: assault, controlled substance possession/use, firearm/weapon possession, kidnapping, sexual assault.	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-288
North Dakota	Violations concerning: criminal behavior.	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-19-18
Ohio	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Oklahoma	Violations concerning: Bullying, criminal behavior, firearm/weapon possession, gang activity.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 5-146.1 Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 24-100.4 Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 24-132.1
Oregon	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 339.250
Pennsylvania	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession	24 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 13-1317.2

STATE	When is a school required to involve law enforcement on school grounds?	Source
Rhode Island	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession, firearm/weapon possession (imitation).	R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 11-47-60.2
South Carolina	Violations concerning: Arson, assault, bomb threat, controlled substances possession/sale, criminal behavior, extortion, illegal use of technology, sexual offenses, theft, weapon possession, vandalism.	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-279
South Dakota	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession.	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-32-4
Tennessee	Violations concerning: Criminal behavior.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-4206
Texas	Violations concerning: Controlled substance possession/sale/use, criminal behavior, deadly conduct, firearm/weapon possession, threatening behavior.	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.015
Utah	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Vermont	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1166
Virginia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Washington	Violations concerning: Firearm/weapon possession.	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.41.280
West Virginia	Violations Concerning:Firearm/weapon possession	W. Va. Code Ann. § 61-7-11a
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Wyoming	Not specified in statute or regulation	