SAFE HANDLING OF FIREARMS

Belief

The Division recognizes that instruction in the safe and responsible handling of firearms, though primarily the responsibility of the home, may have a place in the curriculum of schools.

Procedures

1. Instruction in the safe handling of firearms is warranted when it is part of Alberta Education authorized curriculum e.g.: CTS Wildlife Module 2070; Hunting and Game Management 2 (Field Techniques/Regulations).

2. Schools that wish to offer safe handling of firearms as an optional component of an existing Alberta Education Curriculum e.g.: Outdoor Education or Physical Education, where the handling of firearms is neither mandated nor specified, are required to have the prior approval of the Superintendent or designate.

3. Schools offering or seeking approval to offer instruction in the safe handling of firearms are required to provide the information requested in Form 265-1 by May 15 for the following school year or November 15 for the second semester of the current year.

4. Instruction in the safe handling of firearms shall be by a federally certified instructor.

5. If instruction involves the actual firing of firearms, this shall be at a licensed/approved site.

6. Parents shall be fully informed of the nature of the activity at the time the student enrolls in the course.

7. If the safe handling of firearms is not required as part of the curriculum as in 1. above, then parents and students shall be made aware that an alternative activity is available.

8. Parents shall be informed in writing as to the relevant details of the activity and are required to sign permission forms prior to their children receiving instruction.

9. All safety routines shall be reviewed and enforced.

10. If instruction is to take place off campus then the teacher must accompany students to the site and remain on site for the instruction if a person other than the teacher is doing the instruction.
11. All instruction involving firearms must be approved by the Principal prior to submission to the Superintendent or designate.

Reference: Section 20, 45, 60, 61, School Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12