



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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Superintendent of Education

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Public Information Officer
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Prohibits Tasers, Stun Guns, Oleoresin Capsicum Spray, and Ammunition on School Campuses

Tiyan, Guam - The GDOE is committed to the safety and well-being of all school communities by maintaining a weapons-free environment. Although primarily used for self-defense, tasers, stun guns, and oleoresin capsicum spray (also known as mace, pepper spray, etc..) pose potential danger in schools through misuse and abuse. Ammunition (e.g., bullets, shells, projectiles, etc..) have no place on school grounds. Effective immediately, the department has amended its definition of weapons to include tasers, stun guns, oleoresin capsicum spray, and ammunition (e.g., bullets). Students are prohibited from the possession or use of weapons at all times whether on or off school grounds or during school-sponsored events.

As outlined in the department's Student Conduct Procedural Manual (SOP 1200-018), a student caught in possession or use of a weapon is subject to an immediate 10-day suspension and the school administrator may request for Disciplinary Advisory Council Hearing for additional suspension days and/or expulsion depending on the severity of the violation.

In a statement, Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson, Ph. D. emphasized the importance of maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for everyone in the school district. He said *"We are committed to ensuring the well-being of our students, faculty and staff, and that means having a strict policy of no weapons on our premises. This is essential for creating a positive and productive learning atmosphere."*

For more information, please contact your school administrator or you can call Christopher Anderson at 300 – 1621/23 or email cjanderson@gdoe.net or Terry Naputi at 300 – 1638 or email tinaputi@gdoe.net.

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