Fair Notice Firearm Violence Prevention Act

Surrey Schools is committed to providing safe, welcoming and supportive learning environments for students, staff and families. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen safety in schools, we are sharing information that has been coordinated from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General about new provincial firearms laws affecting K-12 school property. The goal of the provincial requirement is to keep schools safe by keeping firearms and objects that look like firearms out of schools.

What is the FVPA? As of **October 1, 2026**, the Province of British Columbia introduced new rules under the **Firearm Violence Prevention Act (FVPA)**. The law prohibits firearms, low-velocity firearms, and imitation firearms on K-12 school property unless an approved exemption applies. This legislation strengthens existing school district procedures and supplements Surrey Schools Administrative Procedure 310: Safe and Caring Schools.

What's new? While Surrey Schools has the Safe and Caring Schools Administrative Procedure restricting firearms and replica weapons on school property, the FVPA further strengthens existing policies by providing law enforcement additional tools to address and enforce firearms-related public safety risks through a province-wide prohibition on firearms, low-velocity and imitation firearms at K-12 schools and other designated properties.

What items are included? The law applies to:

- Firearms
- BB, pellet, airsoft, gel, and paintball guns
- Imitation firearms, including items that look like real guns, such as some novelty lighters

Are there any exceptions? The FVPA includes narrow exemptions that allow for safe and legitimate activities involving firearms, low-velocity firearms or imitation firearms to continue on K-12 school property when authorized in advance by the school.

The decision to approve or deny activities rests with the school. Schools can impose conditions to their approval, i.e. times and locations where the activity can occur, limitations on the items being used, safety measures, and requiring organizers to supervise and remain on-site during the activity. Some examples of activities that may be exempt:

- Cadet programs
- Biathlon demonstrations or events
- Cinematic, theatrical, film or artistic activities or performances
- Educational activities (e.g., firearms safety training)

Individuals who are safely transporting firearms, low-velocity firearms, or imitation firearms in a vehicle on school property may also be exempted from the general FVPA prohibition as long as applicable requirements in the regulations and other relevant firearms laws are followed (e.g., firearms remain unloaded and safely stored in a locked trunk or container).

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Responsibilities for Schools

- Written authorization must be obtained from the school district before any exempted activity takes place.
- Schools should document all approvals in writing, including any conditions attached to the authorization.
- For shooting competitions and artistic activities, advance written notice must be provided to the local police.
- School staff should be informed of approved activities in advance to ensure awareness and preparedness.
- Where authorization is being provided to a third party, appropriate agreements (e.g. contract for services or facility rental agreement) must be in place.

What happens if there is illegal possession? Unauthorized firearms or imitation firearms on school property may be confiscated by law enforcement. Individuals may also face fines or other penalties under the FVPA.

Where can I learn more? For more information on existing policies that ban firearms in Surrey Schools please refer to Surrey Schools Administrative Procedure 310: Safe and Caring Schools. Surrey Schools district policies and procedures. For more information on the Firearm Violence Prevention Act and regulations visit: **Firearm Violence Prevention Act (FVPA)-** Province of British Columbia