



EFFECTIVE CAMPUS WEAPONS POLICIES

An Inside Higher Ed Webinar

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INSIDE
HIGHER ED

THE CONTEXT FOR CAMPUS POLICIES

National Political Debate

- Military-style assault weapons (ban expired 2004)
- Universal background checks (except intra-family gun transfers)
- Ammunition magazine size limits
- Gun trafficking a federal crime
- Armed guards in public schools
- Role of mental health

Advocacy Groups

- Students for Concealed Carry

“...student-run, national, non-partisan organization which advocates for legal concealed carry on college campuses in the United States as an effective means of self-defense.”

<http://concealedcampus.org>

• National Rifle Association University (NRA-U)

A two-hour seminar that the NRA will bring to any campus.

“...for college students interested in learning more about NRA, the Second Amendment, gun safety, legislative threats to gun rights and the gun control debate...
[Provides] the tools they’ll need to become more effective activists in the fight to protect our freedom, both on and off campus.”

Attendees receive hats, tee shirts, stickers, and a free year of NRA membership.

www.nraila.org/get-involved-locally/nra-u.aspx

NRA also promoted “empty holster” campus protests, circa 2008.

- Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus

“...urging colleges and universities across the country to band together to oppose the gun lobby’s agenda to push guns into college campuses by signing onto a resolution that opposes legislation that would mandate that colleges and universities allow students to carry concealed handguns on campus.

www.keepgunsoffcampus.org

- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)

“...’concealed carry’ initiatives do not make campuses safer. There is no credible evidence to suggest that the presence of students carrying concealed weapons would reduce violence on our college campuses.”

www.iaclea.org/visitors/PDFs/ConcealedWeaponsStatement_Aug2008.pdf

- College Presidents for Gun Safety
<http://collegepresidentsforgunsafety.org>
- Emerson College president's open letter
- Petition from Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, signed by AASCU + many institutions
- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's speech at National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

State Laws

- Know your state laws on guns and other weapons.
- BAN - 21 states ban carrying a concealed weapon on a college campus.
- CAMPUS CHOICE - 23 states allow colleges and universities to make their own decisions.
- REQUIRE - Utah state law expressly *requires* public colleges and universities to *permit* concealed carry.

State Law Resource

- National Conference of State Legislatures

Excellent analyses

www.ncsl.org/issues-research/educ/guns-on-campus-overview.aspx

State Education Bill Tracking Database.

Search under “Post-Secondary, Campus Safety.”

www.ncsl.org/issues-research/educ/education-bill-tracking-database.aspx

Court Decisions

- Know how the state courts have interpreted your state law.
- Concealed carry on campus by court decision in Colorado and Oregon.

- Regents of the University of Colorado v. Students for Concealed Carry, Colo. Supreme Court, March 2012. Broad state law on concealed carry divested Board of Regents of authority to adopt contrary rule for public universities.
- Oregon Firearms Educational Foundation v. Board of Higher Education, Oregon Court of Appeals, September 2011. Board had limited places for concealed carry.

ELEMENTS OF A CAMPUS WEAPONS POLICY



- Statement of Purpose

Link to educational goals, campus as forum for heated debate

- Definition of Weapon

Only firearms, other weapons, ammunition?

Can reference state laws regulating weapons for some definitions



- Persons Covered by Policy

All employees, students, visitors?

- Exceptions

Campus public safety officers, ROTC, hunting club, approved instructors of safety programs, law enforcement officers from elsewhere, private security retained by rock band or student being stalked

- Policy Substance
 - Ban or restrictions
 - Process for approving exceptions
 - Theatrical productions
 - Toys covered or not?
 - Any campus signage, e.g., stadium



- Locations To Which Policy Applies

Buildings

Parking lots

Branch campuses

Satellite locations, e.g., agricultural extension offices

Study abroad

- Storage of Weapons
 - General requirements
 - Campus public safety office
 - ROTC
 - Residence halls
 - Vehicles



- Policy Enforcement

Potential consequences for violating policy

Procedures for determining policy violation

Obligation to report suspected violations

Enforcement against visitors



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