



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GDOE Prohibits Taser, Stun Gun, Oleoresin Capsicum Spray, and Ammunition on School Campus

Tiyan, Guam – The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) issues guidance effective immediately that Taser, stun gun, oleoresin capsicum spray, and ammunition are dangerous weapons. The department prohibits weapons, considered to cause serious bodily harm or death, on school grounds or during school-sponsored events.

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.”*

Taser, stun gun, and oleoresin capsicum spray (Mace, pepper spray, and others) pose potential danger in our schools for misuse and abuse, which may lead to physical harm, while ammunition (bullets, shells, projectiles, and others) has no place on school grounds.

It is important for parents, guardians, and the general-public to realize that although these are useful tools for law enforcement or those trained in self-defense, these individuals receive comprehensive training – lecture, demonstration and scenario exercise – to be knowledgeable and equipped in using these tools.

As outlined in the GDOE Student Conduct Procedural Manual, a student found with a weapon, a serious behavioral infraction will result in an immediate 10-day suspension, and the school administrator may request for Disciplinary Advisory Council Hearing for additional suspension days and/or expulsion.

For more information, please contact 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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