

Postsecondary Campus Safety 2022

Guns on College Campuses

October 2022

This resource includes state statutes and regulations that explicitly allow concealed firearms on campus, explicitly prohibit firearm possession on campus, and statute or regulations that allow guns in locked vehicles on college campuses. For the purposes of this 50-State Comparison, Education Commission of the States only looked at policies in state statute and regulations, and it does not provide legal interpretation of specific circumstances in states with court rulings.

When the phrase “no explicit policy identified” is used, it means that that explicit provision was not found, but is not a declaration that the data point in question is never addressed by state policy. For more information on the full context of what is captured in this resource, please consult the statute and/or regulation citations provided. In some states, court cases have overturned or altered statewide or system-wide policies related to guns on campus.

In at least nine states, statute or regulation explicitly allows individuals to carry concealed firearms on campus; at least two states allow concealed carry if an individual has specific authorization; and at least six states do not allow this practice. At least 26 states explicitly prohibit individuals from possessing a firearm on campus through statute or regulation; at least five additional states prohibit it but with an exception for those who are specifically authorized; and at least five states do not have a prohibition in place. Statute or regulation explicitly allows firearms to be stored in vehicles on institution premises in at least 25 states; and this is not allowed in at least five states, although exceptions were generally granted for certain circumstances. A recent Alabama law allowing firearms to be stored in vehicles on institution premises will go into effect in January 2023.

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STATE	Statute or regulation explicitly ALLOWS individuals to carry concealed firearms on campus	Statute or regulation explicitly PROHIBITS individuals from possessing a firearm on campus	Statute or regulation explicitly ALLOWS firearms to be stored in vehicles on the premises of the institution.	Source
Alabama	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Yes, beginning in January 2023.	2022 H.B. 272; Ala. Code § 13A-11-61.2
Alaska	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	
Arizona	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-2911
Arkansas	Yes. However, private universities and colleges may adopt policy expressly banning such practice.	No.	Yes.	Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-306 Ark. Code Ann. § 5-73-322
California	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Yes.	Cal. Penal Code § 626.9
Colorado	Yes. However, the governing board of a public college or university may prohibit such practice.	No.	Yes.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 18-12-105.5 Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 18-12-214
Connecticut	No explicit policy identified.	No.	No explicit policy identified.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10a-55c
Delaware	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 1457
District of Columbia	No.	No. Statute prohibits illegally carrying a gun near a university or college, with minor stated exceptions.	No.	D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4502.01

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Florida	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 790.06 Fla. Stat. Ann. § 790.115 Fla. Stat. Ann. § 790.25
Georgia	Yes.	No.	Yes.	Ga. Code Ann. § 16-11-127.1 Ga. Code Ann. § 16-11-130.1
Hawaii	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	
Idaho	Yes.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Idaho Code Ann. § 18-3309
Illinois	No.	Yes.	Yes. However, the firearm must be in a non-functioning state, not immediately accessible, unloaded and enclosed, or possessed by someone with a valid concealed carry license.	720 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/24-1 430 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 66/65
Indiana	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	
Iowa	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	
Kansas	Yes.	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c20 Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c10

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Kentucky	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 237.115 Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 527.020
Louisiana	Yes.	Yes. However, exceptions exist such as for students who possess a firearm in their dormitory room, or who are going to or from their vehicle.	Yes.	La. Stat. Ann. § 14:95.2 La. Stat. Ann. § 40:1379.3
Maine	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 10009
Maryland	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	
Massachusetts	No explicit policy identified.	Yes, unless special authorization is obtained.	No explicit policy identified.	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 269, § 10
Michigan	No.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 28.425o
Minnesota	No.	No.	Yes.	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 624.714
Mississippi	Yes.	No explicit policy identified.	No. However an exception exists for non-students on the educational property as long as the person does not brandish, exhibit or display the firearm in a careless, angry or threatening manner.	Miss. Code. Ann. § 97-37-17

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Missouri	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Yes.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 571.107
Montana	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No policy identified
Nebraska	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 28-1204.04 Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 69-2441
Nevada	Yes, if special authorization is obtained.	Yes.	No explicit policy identified.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3673
New Hampshire	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No policy identified
New Jersey	No.	Yes, unless special authorization is obtained.	No explicit policy identified.	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2C:39-5
New Mexico	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Yes.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.4
New York	No.	Yes.	Yes.	N.Y. Penal Law § 265.01E N.Y. Penal Law § 265.40
North Carolina	No.	Yes.	No. However an exception exists for employees of the institution who have concealed carry permits.	

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North Dakota	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No. However an exception exists for individuals who have concealed carry permits.	N.D. Cent. Code § 62.1-02-10
Ohio	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Yes.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126
Oklahoma	Yes, if special authorization is obtained.	Yes.	Yes.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 21, § 1277
Oregon	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	
Pennsylvania	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No policy identified
Rhode Island	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No policy identified
South Carolina	No.	Yes.	Yes.	S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-420
South Dakota	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No policy identified
Tennessee	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1309
Texas	Yes.	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	Tex. Gov. Code § 411.2031 Tex. Gov. Code § 411.2032

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Utah	Yes.	Yes.	Yes. A person can possess a firearm in any vehicle lawfully under the person's control .	Utah Code Ann. § 53B-3-103 Utah Code Ann. § 76-10-505.5
Vermont	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No explicit policy identified.	No policy identified
Virginia	No.	Yes.	No.	8 Va. Admin. Code 45-10-20 8 Va. Admin. Code 35-60-20 8 Va. Admin. Code 50-20-20 8 Va. Admin. Code 55-10-20 8 Va. Admin. Code 90-60-20
Washington	No explicit policy identified.	Yes, unless special authorization is obtained.	Yes.	Wash. Admin. Code 132I-124-020 Wash. Admin. Code 132A-150-020 Wash. Admin. Code 174-136-043 Wash. Admin. Code 478-121-143 Wash. Admin. Code 516-52-020
West Virginia	No.	No explicit policy identified.	Yes.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 61-7-14

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Wisconsin	No explicit policy identified.	Yes, unless special authorization is obtained.	Yes.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 943.13 Wis. Admin. Code UWS § 18.10
Wyoming	No.	Yes, unless special authorization is obtained.	Yes.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 6-8-104
Total answers	No explicit policy identified: 26 No: 14 Yes: 11	No explicit policy identified: 24 Yes: 21 No: 6	Yes: 26 No explicit policy identified: 20 No: 5	