



Huntingdon Area School District
2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2 • Huntingdon, PA 16652
Phone: 814-643-4140

January 21, 2026

Dear Families

Act 44 of 2025, which went into effect on January 6, 2026, is a Pennsylvania law that requires schools to notify parents, guardians, and employees when a “weapon” is on or near school property, in school transportation, or at a school-related event.

While the district has communicated potential safety concerns via our school messenger system in the past, this is the first time we have had something like this under the new law.

Please refer to the webpage for frequently asked questions regarding Act 44 of 2025 to fully understand this message's purpose here:
[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://huntsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Frequently-Asked-Questions_-Act-44.pdf](https://huntsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Frequently-Asked-Questions_-Act-44.pdf)

Early today, a middle school student **voluntarily turned over a knife that was unintentionally** in his pocket to the administration. **There was no safety concern or threat to anyone.** However, because of the law and because the pocket knife is defined as a weapon, I must notify you that it was on school property.

The law is meant to be preventive, ensuring that no items that resemble or are defined as weapons are on school property, and that you are informed.

As stated in the frequently asked questions on the webpage, Federal Privacy prohibits me from sharing the student's name or specific details. The information was provided to law enforcement for their awareness and action if needed.

Again, at no time was there a threat to students or staff.

Jennifer Mitchell

Jennifer Mitchell
Superintendent



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