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## Student gets 6-year sentence for bringing loaded gun to West Roxbury school

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 9, 2012 04:42 PM

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On Oct. 25, Danny Flores, David Everett-Williams, and Aaron Barnes spoke about the gun at the West Roxbury Education Complex. Everett-Williams was not worried because teachers seemed calm.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A Roxbury youth who tried to smuggle a loaded handgun into his West Roxbury high school this fall was sentenced to a six-year commitment to the state's juvenile corrections department, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney's office.

The incident occurred a month before the youth turned 15. After his arrest, the youth was declared a danger to society by a judge and held in custody until he pleaded guilty last week to having brought a .38-caliber handgun loaded with five rounds of ammunition to the West Roxbury Education Complex on the morning of Oct. 25, prosecutors said.

He was sentenced Friday by Juvenile Court Judge Terry Craven to commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) until he turns 21 – the oldest age a person can be committed to the juvenile corrections department, authorities said.

He will be placed in either a secure facility or a number of other alternatives, including group housing, district attorney spokesman Jake Wark said. How and where he will be monitored is up to the juvenile correction department's discretion and could change over the course of his sentence, he said.

The student's name is being withheld by the Globe because he is a juvenile.

Attorney Craig E. Collins represented the teenager during court proceedings.

"My client has been doing very well in his time so far with DYS and is looking forward to accepting responsibility and moving forward in a positive manner," the attorney said by phone this evening, declining to comment further.

On the day of the incident, fellow students said that youth attended Brook Farm/Media High School, one of two schools in the education complex along the Veterans of Foreign Wars Parkway in West Roxbury.

The teenager arrived late to school on Oct. 25 and was spotted by school staff at

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about 8:45 a.m. as he tried to enter the building through a side entrance in an effort to avoid a metal detector at the main entrance, a public schools spokesman [told the Globe previously](#).

School police officers followed the student into the men's bathroom, where they patted him down and found the weapon, a law enforcement official with direct knowledge of the case [told the Globe on the day of the arrest](#).

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity and had not been authorized to speak publicly about the case, told the Globe the student was believed to have gang ties.

Prior to his October arrest on illegal gun charges, the youth had a criminal record that included allegations of two separate instances of violence.

In a statement released after the teen's arrest, Boston Schools spokesman Matt Wilder wrote: "At no time were any students in immediate danger."

Metal detectors had previously been used on randomly-selected days, not every day at the West Roxbury school, but the city public schools spokesman told the Globe after the incident that the detectors would be used before school every day for the foreseeable future and confirmed this afternoon that the school continues to use metal detectors.

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