TASERTM POLICY

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The TASERTM device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual while minimizing the risk of serious injury. It is anticipated that the appropriate use of such a device will result in fewer serious injuries to Security Personnel and offenders.

B. POLICY

Security Personnel who have completed District-approved training may be issued the TASER for use during their current assignment. Security Personnel leaving a particular assignment may be expected to return it to the District.

Security Personnel shall only use the TASER and cartridges that have been issued by the District. Uniformed Security Personnel who have been issued the TASER shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person.

If the TASER is carried as part of a uniformed Security Personnel’s equipment, the TASER shall be carried on the side opposite the Security Personnel’s duty weapon.

(a) All TASERs shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.

(b) Security Personnel shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER is properly maintained and in good working order at all times.

(c) Security Personnel should never hold both a firearm and the TASER at the same time.

C. VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of Security Personnel or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is for the following:

(a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.

(b) Provide other Security Personnel and individuals with a warning that a TASER may be deployed.
If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with a Security Personnel’s lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and practical under the circumstances, the Security Personnel may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided there is not a cartridge loaded into the TASER) or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal and/or other warning was given or reasons it was not given shall be documented by the Security Personnel deploying the TASER.

D. USE OF THE TASER

The TASER has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The TASER should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the TASER. Although the TASER is generally effective in controlling most individuals, Security Personnel should be alert to the potential for failure and be prepared with other options. Security Personnel shall always attempt to de-escalate and use sound tactics only when force may become necessary. In the event force becomes unavoidable, use only the minimal amount of force necessary to overcome an immediate threat.

E. FACTORS TO DETERMINE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

The application of the TASER is likely to cause intense, but momentary, pain. As such, Security Personnel should carefully consider and balance the totality of circumstances available prior to using the TASER, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

(a) The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the Security Personnel at the time).

(b) Security Personnel/subject factors (i.e., age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, number of Security Personnel vs. subject(s)).

(c) Influence of drugs/alcohol (mental capacity).

(d) Proximity of weapons.

(e) The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.

(f) Time and circumstances permitting, the availability of other options (what resources are reasonably available to the Security Personnel under the circumstances).

(g) Seriousness of the suspected offense or the reason for contact with the individual.
(h) Training and experience of the Security Personnel.

(i)Potential for injury to students, employees, community members and Security Personnel.

F. APPLICATION OF THE TASER

Authorized personnel may use the TASER when circumstances known to the individual Security Personnel at the time indicate that such application of the TASER is reasonable to control a person in any of the following circumstances:

(a) The subject is violent or physically resisting and there exists a significant risk of harm to the Security Personnel, himself/herself or others.

(b) A subject who, by words or action, has demonstrated an immediate intention to be violent or to physically resist and who reasonably appears to present a significant potential to harm Security Personnel, himself/herself or others.

(c) Absent meeting the conditions set forth in (a) or (b) above, mere flight from pursuing Security Personnel shall not serve as good cause for the use of the TASER to apprehend an individual.

(d) A TASER shall not be used when a subject is non-compliant and passively resisting a Security Personnel’s commands.

When practicable, the Security Personnel should give a verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER followed by a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply. See C. above.

The Security Personnel must be able to articulate a reasonable belief that other available options appeared ineffective, impractical or would have presented a greater danger to the Security Personnel, the subject or others.

G. SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the TASER should generally be avoided in the following situations unless the totality of the circumstances indicate that other available options reasonably appear ineffective, impractical, or would present a greater danger to the Security Personnel, the subject or others, and the Security Personnel reasonably believes that the need to control the individual to prevent grave bodily injury outweighs the risk of using the TASER:

(a) Pregnant females;

(b) Elderly individuals;
(c) Individuals who are otherwise restrained;

(d) Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any flammable material;

(e) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles); or

(f) Students in pre-K through 8th grade.

The application of the TASER shall not be used in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without darts).

The TASER shall not be used to torture, psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

H. TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

TASER should be used to target a subject’s back or lower center mass and to avoid intentionally targeting the head, neck, chest and groin. However, it is recognized that the dynamics of each situation and Security Personnel safety may not permit the Security Personnel to limit the application of the TASER darts to a precise target area. As such, Security Personnel should take prompt and ongoing care to monitor the condition of the subject if one or more darts strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until he/she is released to the care of paramedics or other medical personnel.

I. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE DEVICE

If the first TASER appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual and if circumstances allow, the Security Personnel should consider the following before additional applications of the TASER:

(a) Whether the probes or darts are making proper contact.

(b) Whether the application of the TASER is interfering with the ability of the individual to comply.

(c) Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

This, however, shall not preclude any Security Personnel from deploying multiple, reasonable applications of the TASER on any individual.

J. ADDITIONAL TASER USE GUIDELINES
Justifiable drawing of the TASER from its holster shall be thoroughly documented in an incident report. TASERs record each weapon’s discharge by date and time.

Such information shall be made available to any supervisor for audit or administrative review of an incident.

TASERs shall only be worn on School District property while on duty.

**K. REPORT OF USE**

All TASER discharges shall be documented in a TASER report. Accidental discharges of a TASER cartridge will also be documented on the TASER report form. Any report documenting the discharge of a TASER cartridge will include the cartridge serial number and an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the discharge.

The onboard TASER memory will be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor. Photographs of probe sites should be taken. The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented. The evidence packaging should be marked “Biohazard” if the probes penetrated the subject’s skin.

**L. MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Absent extenuating circumstances or unavailability, only qualified, trained medical personnel, including paramedics or school nurses, should carefully remove TASER darts from a person’s body. Used TASER darts shall be considered a sharp biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle. Universal precautions should be taken accordingly.

Another uninvolved Security Personnel trained in TASER probe removal may remove the probes if a paramedic or other medical personnel are not readily available. (Security Personnel shall receive training annually on removal of TASER probes as part of use-of-force recertification.)

If the TASER darts have penetrated a sensitive area (head/neck/groin/breast), they should be removed only by trained medical personnel. In the event TASER darts have penetrated a sensitive area of a subject, absent extenuating circumstances or unavailability, the trained medical personnel removing the TASER darts shall be of the same sex as the subject. In the event no medical personnel of the same sex as the subject are available, every effort shall be made to secure a witness of the same sex as the subject to be present for removal of the TASER darts.

All persons who have been struck by TASER darts or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be medically assessed. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:
(a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.

(b) The person may be pregnant.

(c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.

(d) The TASER darts are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g. groin, female breast, near the eyes).

(e) The person requests medical treatment.

(f) Students under 100 lbs. or under 16 years of age.

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, imperviousness to pain (sometimes called “excited delirium”), or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple Security Personnel to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress after such an encounter shall be medically cleared prior to booking.

If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another Security Personnel and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included if possible.

The transporting Security Personnel shall inform any person receiving custody or any person placed in a position of providing care that the individual has been subjected to the application of the TASER.

It should be recommended to the subject to check personal medical records and update tetanus immunizations when appropriate to do so.

M. TRAINING

Security Personnel must complete an initial 8-hour District-approved training course prior to being issued a TASER. In addition to the initial District-approved training required to carry and use a TASER, any personnel who have not carried a TASER as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall attend a 4-hour refresher training course to be recertified by a department-approved TASER instructor prior to again carrying or using the device. Security Personnel will complete TASER training on an annual basis every year thereafter. Training shall include the following:

(a) A review of this policy;
(b) A review of any Use of Force policy;

(c) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the intentional application of the probes near the head, neck, chest and groin;

(d) De-escalation techniques; and

(e) Removal of probes from non-sensitive areas as a result of a deployment.

N. ANNUAL AND BI-ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

A designated supervisor shall conduct a complete inspection and inventory of all District TASERs annually and report to the Chief via chain of command. Such inventory may be conducted during training.

All TASERs shall be inspected and:

(a) Conduct necessary service and maintenance;

(b) Download the computerized history of each TASER; and

(c) Reset the internal time clock.

Service and maintenance may be conducted monthly.

ADOPTED: July 16, 2018