

Board Policy on School Resource Officers

Employment and Responsibilities of School Resource Officers

In order to provide a safe, secure and peaceful environment for the employees, students, parents, and community members at the schools and at activities of the school district, the Board of Education shall employ security personnel who shall be designated as district truant officers under Section 26-5 of the *Illinois School Code* and who shall receive "Police Training Institute" (PTI) training. Such security personnel shall be known as "School Resource Officers." School Resource Officers shall have the responsibility to assist the certified employees in preventing student misconduct and enforcing the school district student discipline policies, individual school regulations and Board policy; to act as liaison between the school district and law enforcement agencies; to act as a resource to the students and staff of the district; and to perform duties as the school district's truant officers.

As school district truant officers, School Resource Officers may also, in the exercise of their duties as truant officers, be conservators of the peace, keep the peace, suppress riots, routs, affrays, fighting, breaches of the peace and prevent crime and may arrest offenders on view and cause them to be brought before proper officials for trial or examination. Such authority, however, is limited by this policy or such other policies or regulations, as, from time to time, may be adopted by the Board of Education or its designated representatives.

Limitations of Authority

General Limitation of Authority

School Resource Officers' general authority is limited to times when they are on duty and (1) on school property, (2) in the immediate vicinity of school property when authorized by a supervisor, or (3) at school district extra-curricular events held off school property.

Power of Arrest and Issuance of Citations

Non-Supervising School Resource Officers' power to make arrests is limited to violations of the truancy statutes in Article 26 of the *Illinois School Code*. A student, who may be in violation of the school district's student discipline policies, shall be referred to the appropriate certified employee for discipline under such student discipline policies unless the student's misconduct constitutes a felony; there is a continuing danger of serious injury to the student or others or to property; or is reportable to a law enforcement agency under a reciprocal reporting agreement or other type of joint agreement. In such cases, School Resource Officers may detain students for arrest by a supervising School Resource Officer or by a law enforcement agency upon specific

authorization of a supervisor. School Resource Officers may detain non-students who violate the Criminal Code for arrest by a supervising School Resource Officer or by a law enforcement agency upon specific authorization of a supervisor. Detention of students shall be in accordance with Section 10-20.33 of the *School Code*.

School Resource Officers shall not have the authority to issue citations for traffic or municipal code violations unless granted such authority through an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Peoria.

Weapons

The authority to carry a weapon is limited to those School Resource Officers who have successfully completed PTI training and to those times during which a School Resource Officer is on duty and is authorized to do so by the Chief of Security. A weapon includes, but is not limited to, a firearm, baton, extendable baton and pepper spray.

This prohibition against carrying a weapon off duty shall not prevent School Resource Officers from being employed as peace officers by law enforcement agencies or other public bodies authorized by statute to employ peace officers, provided the Chief of Security is notified of such employment.

Use of Force and Physical Restraints of Students.

In accordance with Section 10-20.33 of the *School Code*, School Resource Officers may use momentary periods of physical restriction by direct person-to-person contact, without the aid of material or mechanical devices, accomplished with reasonable force and that are designed to (1) prevent a student from completing an act that would result in potential physical harm to himself/herself or another or damage to property, or (2) to remove a disruptive student who is unwilling to voluntarily leave the area. Any other use of force and physical restraints is prohibited except in situations where (1) the student poses a physical threat to himself, herself or others, and (2) there is no medical contraindication to its use.

Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Implementing Regulations

The Superintendent; Chief of Security or other designated representative is authorized to issue regulations implementing this policy.

Adopted: July 25, 2011

Effective Date: August 15, 2011