Firearm Policy

Administrative Procedure

The following procedures and regulations shall govern the firearms policy of the Peoria Public Schools (District 150).

A. Purpose

The purpose of arming Peoria Public Schools security personnel is to save the lives of the Peoria Public Schools students and staff as well as any visitors to the schools.

B. Qualifications and Training

To be qualified to carry a firearm a Peoria Public Schools security personnel…
1. Shall have been a Peoria Public Schools’ security personnel for two years;
2. Shall have passed a psychological examination approved by PPS;
3. Shall have attended an annual training on this policy at the start of the school year within 10 day of the start of the school year;
4. Shall have successfully completed the following training program:
   a. PTI (Police Training Institute) or equivalent and the District-approved firearms qualification (20-hour security firearms training), or
   b. 40-hour PERC (security training) in addition to the 20-hour security firearms training; and
   c. Any additional training as determined by the Director of Security, the Superintendent or Board of education;
5. Shall qualify at the range every 6 months (Spring and Fall firearm qualifications).

C. Conditions and Regulations on Carrying a Firearm

1. One PPS security personnel who is qualified to carry a firearm shall be stationed at each of the District high schools during the school day.

2. Officers who are qualified to carry a firearm cannot carry a firearm unless their particular assignment requires them to carry a firearm.

3. All off-duty PPS security personnel shall not carry a firearm on school property.

4. Qualified PPS security personnel shall be required to procure and provide his own firearm and ammunition, which shall be chosen from lists of acceptable semi-automatic pistols and ammunition maintained by the District.

5. Firearms shall fit in a normal duty holster
6. Each individual Security Officer’s firearm shall be inspected and approved by the Director of Security.

7. The Armed Security Officer shall not substitute a firearm for the approved firearm without specific approval by the Director of Security.

8. All firearms shall be carried on the opposite side of the officers TASER.

9. PPS security personnel shall be responsible for ensuring that their firearm is properly maintained and in good working order at all times.

10. Officers should never hold both a firearm and TASER at the same time.

D. Use of a Firearm

Any use of a firearm is considered to be the use of deadly force. A PPS security personnel may only use his/her firearm when a reasonable person would believe that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to another person or the PPS security personnel himself or herself. It may be used only as a last resort, under conditions of extreme necessity when all lesser means have failed or cannot reasonably be employed and when its use will not unreasonably risk the lives of innocent bystanders. If feasible, a verbal warning to submit to the authority of the Peoria Public Schools’ security personnel shall be given prior to the use of deadly force but a warning shot is prohibited.

Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, the PPS security personnel shall provide appropriate medical care consistent with his or her training to any individual who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. The fact that a verbal and/or other warning was given or reasons it was not given shall be documented.

E. Use of other types of potentially deadly force

Chokeholds or any other conduct that prevents the intake of air or the loss of oxygen to the brain, including but not limited to, restricting blood flow to the carotid arteries; the intentional application direct pressure to the throat, windpipe or airway and the intentional punching or striking the trachea is prohibited. The use of a club, baton or similar instrument to strike the head of any individual is prohibited.

F. Active shooter situation

In an active shooter situation, it shall be the duty of an armed PPS security personnel to immediately engage the shooter. Failure to do so shall be grounds for immediate dismissal from the school district.