



Book	Policy Manual
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8407 - **SAFE-SCHOOL OFFICERS**

For the protection and safety of students, school personnel, visitors, and property, the District shall partner with local law enforcement agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility in the District, including charter schools. A Safe-School officer shall be present, at a minimum, during the school day when the school facility is open for instruction as defined by the approved school calendar (See, Policy 8210 - School Calendar).

Definitions

"Safe-School officer" means a school resource officer, a school safety officer, a school guardian, or a school security guard, as identified in F.S. 1006.12.

"School facility" means a public K-12 school, including a charter school, with a Master School Identification Number (MSID) number as provided under F.A.C. 6A-1.0016, with the following exceptions:

- A. Schools with separate MSID numbers that are located at the same physical location and are co-located with each other are a single-school facility.
- B. Schools that are located at separate physical locations and are not co-located, but share one MSID number are separate school facilities.
- C. A school facility does not include:
 - 1. schools without a physical location for instruction of students, such as virtual schools, virtual instruction programs, virtual course offerings, franchises of the Florida Virtual School and virtual charter schools;
 - 2. settings where instruction is provided in a county jail or state prison, in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility or program, in a hospital, or while a student is homebound;
 - 3. schools that provide only prekindergarten or adult education;
 - 4. technical centers under F.S. 1004.91; and

5. private schools, regardless of whether or not their students receive State scholarship funds under F.S. Chapter 1002.

Training

Safe-School officers must complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training shall improve officers' knowledge and skills as first responders to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.

Limitations

An individual must satisfy background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements and be approved by the Jackson County Sheriff before participating in any training required by F.S. 30.15(1)(k) which may be conducted only by a sheriff.

School Resource Officers

The School Board will enter into cooperative agreements with law enforcement agencies for the provision of school resource officers. School resource officers must be certified law enforcement officers as defined in F.S. 943.10(1) and employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in F.S. 943.10(4). The purpose of the SRO program is to promote and assist school administrators with school-based security and safety. School resource officers shall:

- A. undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation;
- B. abide by Board policies and consult with and coordinate activities through school principals; and
- C. abide by Board policies and consult with and coordinate activities through school principals.

With respect to matters relating to employment, school resource officers shall be responsible to their law enforcement agency, subject to agreements between the Board and law enforcement agency. Activities conducted by school resource officers which are part of the regular instructional program of schools shall be under the direction of school principals.

The powers and duties of law enforcement officers shall continue throughout school resource officers' tenure.

Student discipline is the responsibility of the school administration. However, in instances where a crime may have been committed, or if there is a threat of injury to person or property, the SRO should be involved as the trained professional to handle such situations. If there is no safety threat, administration should take the lead in the school-based investigation with the assistance of the SRO. If practicable, the Principal or their designee shall be present during the questioning of students by SRO's concerning crimes committed. If a student is arrested and/or taken into custody, the SRO and school personnel shall utilize best efforts to immediately notify the parent/guardian. The SRO's shall use best efforts to comply with the policies set forth by the School Board of Jackson County and procedures established by administration.

School Guardians (The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program)

The School Board utilizes school guardians pursuant to The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program. The Superintendent shall be responsible for appointing school guardians. Prior to appointing school guardians, the Superintendent must provide the Board with evidence from the Jackson County Sheriff demonstrating that potential school guardians have met all the requirements set forth in F.S. 30.15.

The guardian training program must include twelve (12) hours about responding to and de-escalating incidents on school premises.

The District must report to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a guardian, as well as the date of separation if a guardian leaves the assignment.

School guardians do not have the power of arrest or the authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident. In support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of F.S. 790.115, the following individuals may serve as a school guardian:

- A. a District employee or personnel as defined under F.S. 1002.01 who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his/her official job duties; or
- B. a District employee who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian.

Safe-School Officer Assignment Outside of the Regular School Day

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Safety Specialist, is responsible for developing procedures relating to the assignment of Safe-School officers outside of the regular school day, including during, before, and after school, summer school, during extra-curricular activities, and for school-sponsored events. In developing the procedures, the Superintendent must consider factors such as the number of persons present, the ratio of staff members to students, and other safety measures available.

Notification of Incidents Involving Safe-School Officer Discipline, Dismissal or Discharge of a Firearm

A. Discharge of a Weapon

"Discharge" means to fire a gun or firearm.

The Superintendent must notice the Office of Safe Schools when a Safe-School officer assigned to any school facility in the District discharges a firearm in the exercise of Safe-School officer duties, other than for training purposes, as provided in F.S. 1006.12 (5). Notification must be made no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the incident by submitting Form SSON-2021 to SafeSchools@fldoe.org.

The Superintendent is also responsible for notifying the Jackson County Sheriff immediately after, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after, a Safe-School Officer discharges their firearm in the exercise of their duties other than for training purposes.

B. Dismissal or Discipline

"Dismissal" means a Safe-School officer is permanently relieved of their position. Dismissal or termination is involuntary and initiated by the employer, including firings or other discharges for cause. "Discipline" means a Safe-School officer received a behavior-related official reprimand.

The Superintendent must notify the Office of Safe Schools when a Safe-School officer assigned to a school facility in the District has been disciplined for misconduct or has been dismissed from their duties as a Safe-School officer by their employer, including in cases where the officer is reassigned or moved to another school location, whether by a school district, charter school, law enforcement agency, or private security company, as provided F.S. 1006.12 (5). Notification must be made no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the dismissal or disciplinary action by submitting Form SSON-2021 to SafeSchools@fldoe.org.

- C. The Superintendent must notify the Office of Safe Schools when there is an allegation of misconduct that results in a Safe-School officer being placed on administrative leave or reassigned pending completion of an investigation using the procedure set forth in F.A.C. 6A-1.0018 (18)(b)1. Within fifteen (15) days of completion of the investigation, updated information regarding the result of the investigation must be provided to the Office of Safe Schools.

The Superintendent is also responsible for notifying the Jackson County Sheriff immediately after, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after, a Safe-School Officer is dismissed for misconduct or disciplined.

- D. The Superintendent shall adopt and implement procedures to verify that charter schools, law enforcement agencies, and private security firms employing or contracting with Safe-School officers timely report discipline and dismissal of Safe-School officers and any discharge of an officer's weapon outside of training activities, so that the District can meet the reporting requirements under Florida law.

Crisis Intervention Training

Each Safe-School Officer who is also a sworn law enforcement officer must complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training must improve the officer's knowledge and skills as a first responder to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.

Each Safe-School Officer who is not a sworn law enforcement officer must receive training to improve the officer's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school premises.

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