

**Policy**

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SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – CLASS III

Any person who knowingly has in his/her possession any firearm in or upon any part of the buildings or grounds of the school, without the written authorization of the Ventnor Board of Education, is guilty of a crime of the third degree, irrespective of whether he/she possesses a valid permit to carry the firearm or a valid firearms purchaser identification card (N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5e1).

Special Law Enforcement Officers – Class III

The board shall approve the employment of Special Law Enforcement Officers – Class III (SLEO-IIIs) for the purpose of performing security duties and education duties related to safety for students and staff. All Special Law Enforcement Officers – Class III applicants for district employment shall have completed the waiver request and received the Police Training Commission certification.

To be certified by the Police Training Commission as a Special Law Enforcement Officer – Class III the candidate shall:

- A. Be a resident of New Jersey during the term of appointment;
- B. Be able to read, write and speak the English language well and intelligently and has a high school diploma or its equivalent;
- C. Be of sound in body and of good health;
- D. Be of good moral character;
- E. Not have been convicted of any offense involving dishonesty or which would make him unfit to perform the duties of his office;
- F. Successfully undergone the same psychological testing that is required of all full-time police officers in the municipality or county or, with regard to a special law enforcement officer hired for a seasonal period by a resort municipality which requires psychological testing of its full-time police officers, has successfully undergone a program of psychological testing approved by the commission.
- G. Be a retired police officer who is less than 65 years of age (a law enforcement officer shall not be considered retired if the officer's return to employment violates any federal or State law or regulation which would deem the officer's retirement as not being bona fide);
- H. Have served as a duly qualified, fully-trained, full-time officer in any municipality or county of New Jersey or as a member of the State Police and was separated from that prior service in good standing, within three years of appointment;
- I. Be physically capable of performing the functions of the position, determined in accordance with Police Training Commission guidelines;
- J. Possess a New Jersey Police Training Commission Basic Police Officer Certification or New Jersey State Police Academy Certification;
- K. Have completed the training course for safe schools resource officers;

As a part of the employment contract with local law enforcement the SLEO – Class III may carry their weapon in accordance with all the rules and regulations pertaining to active duty officers.

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – CLASS III (continued)Procedures

Any individual with a legal permit to carry a handgun and authorized by the board to carry a handgun on school property shall keep the weapon properly holstered and on their body while on school property. The individual shall not draw out, exhibit or fire the handgun unless the employee is an active duty law enforcement officer and required to do so in the line of duty. In the event that the authorized handgun carrier needs to remove the handgun from their person, the handgun may only be removed in a secure room, separated from the immediate presence of students. Once the handgun is removed it shall be stored in a secure and locked receptacle such as a safe to ensure that no unauthorized person has access to the handgun.

This board policy and the conditions herein shall be discussed, reviewed and revised as appropriate at the annual meeting with law enforcement regarding the district *Uniform Memorandum of Agreement between the Education and Law Enforcement Officials* (see board policy 1410 Local Unites).

Any person carrying a firearm on school property illegally and/or without the official authorization of the board shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law (see board policy 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments).

Date: July 18, 2023

First Reading: July 26, 2023

Second Reading/Adoption: August 23, 2023

Key Words

Weapon, Handgun, Firearms, School Resource Officer

<b>Legal References:</b>	N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4	Possession of weapons for unlawful purposes
	N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5	Unlawful possession of weapons
	N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6	Exemptions
	N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4	Permits to carry handguns
	N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.10.	Special law enforcement officers
	N.J.A.C. 13:54-1.5	Prerequisites for a permit to purchase handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card
	N.J.A.C. 13:54-2.1 <i>et seq.</i>	Permit to carry a handgun
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	N.J.A.C. 13:54-2.9	Duration and renewal

P.L.2016, Chapter 68, Special law enforcement officers

<b>Cross References:</b>	*1410	Local units
	*4147/4247	Staff safety
	*5131	Conduct and discipline
	*5131.1	Harassment, intimidation and bullying
	*5131.5	Vandalism/violence
	*5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
	*5131.7	Weapons and dangerous implements
	*5142	Student safety
	*5145.11	Questioning and apprehension
	*5145.12	Search and seizure

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.