

Policy 3515.3: District Police/Security Department

Status: ADOPTED

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To help protect the safety of district students and staff and the security of district property, the Governing Board shall maintain a district police or security department. The Board is committed to providing a positive school climate, mental health services, other student support services, and restorative justice practices to resolve conflicts and reduce law enforcement interactions with students.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to staff regarding the role of district police or security officers and the appropriate circumstances for contacting such officers.

Duties of district police or security officers shall be delineated in a job description approved by the Board. Such duties shall focus on collaborative problem solving and, when circumstances warrant intervention with students, the use of positive and restorative approaches in accordance with Penal Code 13651. Police or security officer job duties shall not include the handling of routine student disciplinary matters.

OPTION 1: (Security Department)

Persons employed or assigned as school security officers shall serve as watchpersons, security guards, or patrolpersons on or about district premises to protect persons or property, prevent the theft or unlawful taking of district property, or report unlawful activity to the district and local law enforcement agencies. (Education Code 38001.5)

When district security officers are unable to perform their duties because of an emergency, including, but not be limited to, war, epidemic, fire, flood, or work stoppage, or when the emergency necessitates additional security services, the Board may contract with a private licensed security agency. In such cases, the Board shall make a specific finding that an emergency exists and shall include this finding in the Board minutes. (Education Code 38005)

OPTION 2: (Police Department)

Persons employed as members of the district police department, when appointed and duly sworn, are peace officers for the purposes of carrying out their duties pursuant to Penal Code 830.32. (Education Code 38001)

The district's police department may be supplemented by a school police reserve officer corps, which may include unpaid volunteer reserve police officers. For the duration of their specific assignment, school police reserve officers shall have the same powers and duties as other school police officers. (Education Code 35021.5; Penal Code 830.6)

When notified by a school official of a threat or perceived threat that a student is preparing to commit a homicidal act related to a school or school activity, district police and security officers shall, with the support of the district, immediately conduct an investigation and assessment of the threat or perceived threat. Such investigation and assessment shall include a search of the school site only if there is reasonable suspicion that the search would produce evidence related to the threat or perceived threat. (Education Code

Conduct of Officers

The Board expects district police or security officers to cooperate and regularly communicate with local law enforcement agencies, and to work collaboratively with other district staff and community members to develop long-term, proactive approaches that address the conditions affecting school safety.

District police or security officers shall conduct themselves in ways that promote goodwill and cooperation on the part of students, district staff, and the general public. District police or security officers shall not discriminate against or treat any person differently on the basis of race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

District police or security officers shall not solicit or collect information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of students or their family members or provide assistance with immigration enforcement at district schools, except as may be required by state and/or federal law. (Education Code 234.7)

Whenever possible, district police or security officers shall use tactics such as de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, or other alternatives to force to minimize the use of force. The district police department shall maintain and make accessible to the public a policy on the use of force in accordance with Government Code 7286 and consistent with district policy and administrative regulation. Officers shall periodically receive training regarding applicable district policies and the guidelines from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Equipment

The Board authorizes district police or security officers to carry firearms in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

The district police department shall be eligible to receive surplus military equipment pursuant to 10 USC 2576a only if, at a regularly scheduled public Board meeting, the Board approves the acquisition of such equipment after providing parents/guardians and members of the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed acquisition. The Board shall provide a detailed description of the function and purpose of the surplus military equipment, identify safe and secure storage for the equipment, and ensure that district police officers have adequate training in the safe use and handling of the equipment to be received. (Education Code 38004.5)

Records

District police or security officers shall not have access to student records, nor release student information to another person, agency, or organization, without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student, unless specifically allowed or required by state or federal law. (Education Code 49076; 34 CFR 99.1)

Records created and maintained by the district police or security department for a law enforcement purpose

are not considered disclosable student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (34 CFR 99.3)
