

Students

Roles and Responsibilities of Armed School Security Officers

Through the adoption of the School Security Officer ("SSO") policy, the Amity Regional School District No. 5 (ARSD) Board of Education (the "Board") authorizes the placement of Armed School Security Officers (ASSO) in each of the school buildings of the ARSD to provide for the safety and security of students and school personnel during times that the Superintendent deems necessary.

The Armed School Security Officer ("ASSO") is an employee of the Board. The specific qualifications, duties, and responsibilities for the position of ASSO and the Lead School Security Officer (LSSO) shall be those set forth in the ASSO and the LSSO job descriptions, as may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the Board, consistent with State and federal law.

The function of the ASSO and the LSSO is to assist the administration and other school staff in promoting a safe, non-threatening school environment, including assisting in the prevention of school violence. The ASSO and the LSSO are visible and active figures at the school to which they are assigned. The ASSO and the LSSO shall be charged with taking steps to safeguard and protect the school community and school property. The ASSO and the LSSO shall engage in the detection or prevention of any unauthorized activity on or near school grounds, including, but not limited to, the unlawful intrusion or entry on school property, vandalism, abuse, arson, or trespass. An ASSO/LSSO may use reasonable physical force in accordance with his/her training only to prevent serious physical injury to self or others or district property. The use of reasonable force shall be in accordance with State law, Board policy and regulations and any applicable memorandum of understanding or agreement with the Towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge.

The ASSO reports to the Lead School Security Officer and to the building principal and ultimately to the Superintendent of Schools. At the discretion of the Board, the ASSOs and the LSSO are authorized to carry firearms in the performance of their duties as armed security officers (ASSO) in accordance with State statute. The Board shall not employ as an ASSO any individual who fails to meet the requirements for the position as set forth in State statute. An ASSO hired and authorized by the Board to carry a firearm in the exercise of his/her duties is required to receive police/firearms training as required by law, Board policy and regulations, job description, and any memorandum of understanding or agreement with the Towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge.

The use of a firearm by an ASSO/LSSO is permitted on school grounds and at school functions or activities in accordance with State and federal law and this Board Policy and regulation. The use of a firearm by an ASSO/LSSO shall be limited to circumstances when there are no other less lethal alternatives available and the use is deemed necessary by the ASSO/LSSO to protect self or others from what the ASSO/LSSO reasonably believes to be the imminent use of deadly physical force. Any use of a firearm on school grounds or at a school function or activity by an ASSO/LSSO must be in accordance with State and federal law, be pursuant to the

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ASSO's/LSSO's police training, and also be consistent with Board policy and administrative regulations and any applicable memorandum of understanding or agreement with the Towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge.

The Board's policy and any applicable administrative regulations shall be subject to all applicable federal and/or Connecticut laws, as may be amended from time to time. In the event that any portion of this policy or the applicable administrative regulations is determined to be contrary to the provisions of any such federal and/or Connecticut law at any time, the Board shall promptly review and revise the policy and administrative regulations as may be necessary to comply with such federal and/or Connecticut laws.

The Superintendent will adopt and maintain administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record.
10-220 Duties of boards of education.
10-233a through 10-233f. Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, and PA 98-139.
53a-3 Definitions.
53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.
PA 15-168 An Act Concerning Collaboration Between Boards of Education and School Resource Officers and the Collection and Reporting of Data on School-Based Arrests
PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)
Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.
P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997.
Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.