



## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

In order to promote the safety and security of its schools, the Torrington Board of Education (the “Board”) authorizes the use of school resource officers (“SROs”) and/or armed security officers (“ASOs”) within the Torrington Public Schools (the “District”) in accordance with applicable law, this policy and its accompanying regulations, and any relevant Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the Board and the Torrington Police Department (“Department”).

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy:

A “school resource officer” or “SRO” is a sworn police officer of the Department who has been assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement between the Board and the chief of police of the Department, in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233m.

An “armed security officer” or “ASO” is a retired police officer, who is also a qualified retired law enforcement officer as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 926C, who is hired by the Board to provide security services in its schools. Armed security officers must also meet the requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a, including the requirement to receive annual training pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-294x and successfully complete annual firearms training provided by a certified firearms instructor that meets or exceeds the standards of the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training (“POST”) Council or 18 U.S.C. § 926C, as amended from time to time.

A “retired police officer” means (1) a sworn member of an organized local police department who was certified by the POST Council and retired or separated in good standing from such department or a sworn member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection who retired or separated in good standing from said division, (2) a sworn federal law enforcement agent who retired or separated in good standing from such federal law enforcement service and who meets or exceeds the standards of the POST Council for certification in this state, or (3) a sworn officer of an organized police department in another state who was certified under

standards that meet or exceed the standards of the POST Council for certification in this state and who retired or separated in good standing from such department.

### **School Resource Officers**

In the event that the Board determines that it would be appropriate to place SROs in the District, the Board will enter into an MOU with the Department regarding the role and responsibilities of SROs in the schools. SROs remain employees of the Department but will be subject to the provisions of the MOU. Such MOU shall meet the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes §10-233m. The MOU shall be maintained in a central location in the District and posted on the websites of the District and each school in which an SRO is assigned.

### **Armed Security Officers**

The Board may employ, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §10-244a, one or more ASOs to assist the school administration and other school staff in promoting a safe and positive school environment and taking steps to prevent school violence. An ASO shall meet all legal requirements for the position, as well as all requirements established by the District.

Through Public Act 13-188, Torrington Public Schools has approved the hiring of an Armed Security Officer and authorizes the placement of an armed security officer in the district buildings to provide for the safety and security of students and school personnel during the school day as well as times that the Superintendent deems necessary. The Armed Security Officer ("ASO") is an employee of the Board of Education of Torrington Public Schools (the "Board") and shall support the school administration and staff in maintaining a safe and positive school environment. The ASO reports to the building principals as needed, and ultimately to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for conducting an annual evaluation of the ASO. At the discretion of the Board, the ASO is authorized to carry firearms.

The function of the ASO 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 ASO shall be charged with taking steps to safeguard and protect the school community and school property. The ASO 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. The specific qualifications, duties and responsibilities for the position of ASO shall be those set forth in the ASO job description and BOE policy, as may be amended from time to time in the discretion of the Board, consistent with state and federal law.

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.

All armed school security in Connecticut schools must be either active police officers or any of the following retired officers or agents: Connecticut state police officers, Connecticut local police officers, out-of-state police officers, or federal law enforcement agency officers or agents. Retired officers must also (1) meet or exceed Connecticut’s Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council certification standards to serve as armed security at a school and (2) be a “qualified retired law enforcement officer” as defined in the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) (CGS § 10-244a). Among other things, being qualified under LEOSA means the officer must have either served as a law enforcement officer for at least 10 years or separated from service due to a service-related disability (18 U.S.C. § 926C).

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop, adopt, and maintain administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

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 96-444, and PA 98-139

10-233m Memorandum of understanding re school resource officers

10-233p Reporting of investigations and behavioral interventions by school resource officers

10-244a Employment of persons to provide security services in a public school while in possession of a firearm

53a-217b Possession of a weapon on school grounds: Class D felony

PA 13-188 An Act Concerning School Safety

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

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