

Students

School Security Officers

Through Public Act 13-188. The Orange Public Schools has approved the hiring of School Security Guards who are armed and authorizes the placement of these guards in each of the school buildings to provide for the safety and security of students and school personnel during the school day as well as times that the Superintendent and or his/her designee deems necessary. The School Security Officers (SSOs) are an employee of the Orange Board of Education (the "Board") and shall support the school administration and staff in maintaining a safe and positive school environment. The SSOs report to the building principal, and ultimately to the Superintendent of Schools and or his/her designee. The SSOs are authorized to carry firearms.

The function of the SSOs are to assist the administration and other school staff in maintaining and promoting a safe, non-threatening school environment, including assisting in the prevention of school violence. The SSOs shall be charged with taking steps to safeguard and protect the school community and school property. The SSOs 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 SSOs shall be those set forth in the SSOs 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.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

Sec. [53a-217b](#). Possession of a weapon on school grounds: Class D felony.

(a) A person is guilty of possession of a weapon on school grounds when, knowing that such person is not licensed or privileged to do so, such person possesses a firearm or deadly weapon, as defined in section [53a-3](#), (1) in or on the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school, or (2) at a school-sponsored activity as defined in subsection (h) of section [10-233a](#).

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm (1) by a person for use in a program approved by school officials in or on such school property or at such school-sponsored activity, (2) by a person in accordance with an agreement

entered into between school officials and such person or such person's employer, (3) by a peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, while engaged in the performance of such peace officer's official duties, or (4) by a person while traversing such school property for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other lawful purposes, provided such firearm is not loaded and the entry on such school property is permitted by the local or regional board of education.

(c) Possession of a weapon on school grounds is a class D felony.

CT Public Act 13-188

Policy Adopted: 9.19.2022