SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER(S) AND SECURITY PERSONNEL

ADOPTED: April 22, 2013

REVISED: June 24, 2019

### 705.1. SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER(S) AND SECURITY PERSONNEL

#### 1. Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for student, staff and the public while in school and at school functions. The Board is further committed to the protection of its real and personal property. To assure a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and the public and to assure the protection of real and personal property of the District, the Board has established an Office of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness (School Police Department or Department) consisting of school police officers and security personnel. One of the school police officers shall also serve as the School Chief of Police. In this policy the use of the term School Police Officers shall include the School Chief of Police.

#### 2. Authority

SC 510.1, 778  
53 Ps. C.S.A.  
Sec. 2161 et seq

In order to achieve that purpose, school police officer(s) who are properly certified in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are approved to carry a District-issued firearm on their person while exercising their duties. Nothing herein shall prevent the District from contracting with or employing additional persons to work as school security persons.

#### 3. Delegation of Responsibility

The use of force is a serious responsibility. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, each officer is expected to follow established procedures to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and safe manner. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the overall operation of the Department and establish guidelines for the operation of the department. There shall be a designated School Chief of Police who will be responsible for the daily operation of the Department and for supervision of the police officers and security personnel. District administration shall be responsible for controlling behavior and enforcing the Student Code of Conduct. District administrators and the Department shall work collaboratively in matters concerning student conduct and discipline while attending school and at school events.

The school police officers appointed by the Court shall possess and exercise all of the following powers and duties:

1. To exercise all powers as conferred by the Court.
705.1. SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER(S) AND SECURITY PERSONNEL - Pg. 2

| SC 778, 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 1 et seq | 2. To exercise the same powers as are now and may hereafter be exercised under authority of law or ordinance by the police of the municipality wherein the school property is located; including but not limited to the following:

- To issue summary citations.
- To exercise the power to arrest and issue citations for violations of law.
- To enforce and prosecute violations of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code (i.e., traffic tickets, speeding).
- To appear before District Justices, juvenile probation officers, mental health hearing officers, court appointed hearing officers and courts of record for the purpose of filing and prosecuting criminal charges against arrested persons under the jurisdiction of the Department and pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth.
- To possess firearms while on duty providing and conditioned upon the school police officer being court appointed as a School Police Officer and successfully completing a training course in the use and handling of firearms pursuant to 53 Pa. C.S.A. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating to municipal police education and training) (53 Pa C.S.A. §2161 et seq) providing further that the school police officer on a biennial basis completes a training course as specified by the Superintendent or his/her designee in the use and handling of firearms.
- To use force in accordance with the 18 pa. C.S.A. §509 (Use of force by persons with special responsibility for care, discipline or safety of others), 18 pa. C.S.A.§505 (Use of force in self-protection) and 18 Pa. C.S.A. §507 (Use of force for the protection of property).


Procedural guidelines for School Police Officer(s) in the Spring-Ford Area School District will be developed by the administration and School Chief of Police to provide direction and requirements in the areas of:

1. Firearms and ammunition to be utilized by school police officer(s) and the manner in which firearms to be carried by officer(s).
2. To the extent an individual is authorized by this policy and through the job duties assigned by the district to carry a firearm, the only such firearm and ammunition used or carried by the individual on school grounds or while in the performance of duties on behalf of the School District shall be those that are issued by and are the property of the School District. No personally owned firearms or ammunition shall be brought by any school employee onto school property.

3. Use of force guidelines and procedures

4. Firearms storage, maintenance, issuance, and return procedures

5. Firearms safety and retention procedures

6. Training requirements and qualifications

7. Records maintenance pertaining to training, qualification, and inventory

8. Investigative procedures for discharge of a firearm

9. Conditions affecting an officer’s ability to carry a firearm

10. Duties and responsibilities of school police officer(s) and the School Chief of Police

11. The School Chief of Police shall ensure all School Police Officers are annually trained in all of the requirements of Pennsylvania Act 44 Safe Schools and in concert with the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.

This policy shall be periodically reviewed and any necessary changes adopted by the Board of School Directors.

The school district shall be covered by appropriate liability insurance at all times for all duties and obligations in this policy and related procedures.

In the event it is necessary, all such authorized school police officer(s) shall be provided legal counsel through the District’s law enforcement insurance policy, and subsequent umbrella liability policy, except in the event that the officer commits a willful, intentional and grossly negligent, or illegal act.

All costs and expenses necessary for the implementation of this policy and related procedures shall be borne solely by the school district, which shall include the required periodic training and qualification of school police officer(s).
<p>| |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is the responsibility of the school police officer to conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>himself/herself with the highest standards of professionalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>while on or off duty and to follow all established school district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>policies and procedures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>