

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS SECURITY** *(School Protection Officers)*

In order to promote a safe learning and working environment for students and staff, the district may designate one or more elementary or secondary teachers or administrators as school protection officers (SPOs).

### **Qualifications**

Before being designated as an SPO, the teacher or administrator must have successfully completed an SPO training program approved by the director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety and be authorized by the Board to carry a concealed firearm.

Teachers and administrators in the district who wish to be designated as SPOs must submit a request in writing to the superintendent. In addition to this request, teachers and administrators seeking to carry a concealed firearm on school property must also submit proof that they have a valid concealed carry endorsement or permit and a certificate of completion from an SPO training program approved by the director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The certificate shall demonstrate that the individual has successfully completed the training requirements established by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission in accordance with law.

Within 30 days of designating a teacher or administrator as an SPO, the superintendent or designee shall provide written notification of the designation to the director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

The identities of SPOs or identifying information regarding SPOs are not records open to the public under the Sunshine Law.

### **Duties**

The primary duty of SPOs is to respond to threatening situations where a weapon might be necessary to protect individuals on district property. SPOs have the authority to detain or use reasonable force against any person on school property in accordance with law and the officer's training.

The responsibilities associated with this designation are voluntary and in addition to the normal responsibilities and duties of the teachers or administrators.

SPOs are required to keep their firearms under their personal control at all times. An SPO who fails to do so will be immediately removed from the classroom and face subsequent discipline, including termination proceedings.

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SPOs who detain a person or brandish or use a weapon shall immediately notify a school administrator and either law enforcement or, if applicable, the school resource officer. If the person detained is a district student, an administrator shall immediately notify the student's parents/guardians. SPOs shall not detain an individual for more than one hour.

SPOs may also be required to work with local law enforcement or the district's school resource officer to create emergency response plans and conduct drills.

**Revocation of Designation**

If the Board revokes an employee's designation as an SPO, the superintendent or designee will immediately notify the SPO in writing of the revocation. Within 30 days of the revocation, the superintendent or designee shall provide written notification of the revocation of the designation of such person as an SPO to the director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

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*Note: The reader is encouraged to review policies and/or forms for related information in this administrative area.*

Implemented:

Revised: February 23, 2017

East Carter R-II School District, Ellsinore, Missouri