

# **Pataula Charter Academy and Spring Creek Charter Academy Weapons Policy**

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Pataula Charter Academy (PCA) and Spring Creek Charter Academy enforce the provisions of state law as related to weapons on the school's main campus as well as any other property that counts as an extension of the campus such as bus stops and other places where school sponsored events are being hosted.

## **Definitions:**

**The School Safety Zone** – For the purposes of this policy shall be defined as the area in or on any property, building, or bus either owned by, leased by or being used by the school including bus stops and other places where school sponsored or school related activities or events are being hosted.

**School Function** – For the purpose of this policy shall be defined as any school or school sponsored or school related activity within the school safety zone or on any other public or private property.

**Weapon** - As defined by the law, and for the purpose of this policy, is a broad term that includes many instruments, including but not limited to: firearms, knives, bludgeoning and flailing equipment, projectiles, and stun guns. Weapons under the law do not include baseball bats or other sports equipment for legitimate athletic purposes or firearms when used for organized sport or training.

## **Policy Statement:**

PCA/SCCA will take every step appropriate to ensure the safety of its students, teachers, staff, and school administration. As such, PCA/SCCA shall enforce the following regarding weapons:

In accordance with state law O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1 no individual may carry, possess, or have under their control a weapon or explosive compound while within the school safety zone or while attending a school function.

Certain law enforcement personnel are exempt from provisions of the law and may carry a weapon on school property.

Non-exempt individuals who are licensed to carry weapons and are on campus for a legitimate reason (such as picking up or dropping off a student or serving as a teacher) may keep a weapon in his or her vehicle only if that weapon remains in a locked compartment of a motor vehicle or in a locked container in or on a locked firearms rack which is on a motor vehicle. Non-exempt individuals **MAY NOT** otherwise carry a weapon on school property.

Non-exempt individuals who are not licensed to carry weapons in accordance with applicable law may keep a weapon in his or her vehicle only if that weapon remains in a locked compartment within the vehicle when that vehicle is being used by someone 21 years of age or older and he or she is dropping off or picking up a student at the school or official school function.

The provisions of the law apply at all times, even when school is not in session.

Incidents in the school involving student violation of this law should be handled in accordance with appropriate administrative procedures.

School personnel should notify the appropriate law enforcement agency in the event that any individual is in violation of this law, and such individuals may have their visitation privileges restricted and/or may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

**Approved: 11/27/17**

**Amended: 3-26-19**