

## **Pataula Charter Academy, Inc.**

### **Armed Personnel Policy**

#### **Purpose:**

The PCA, Inc. Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe and secure working and learning environment. Unless authorized by the Board or an administrator in accordance with this policy, or specifically authorized by state law, employees shall be prohibited from bringing weapons on any property or in any building owned or leased by Pataula Charter Academy or Spring Creek Charter Academy, at school functions, and on school buses or other transportation furnished by the schools. Employees in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

#### **Policy:**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130.1, the Governing Board may authorize certain personnel to possess or carry weapons on any property or in any building owned or leased by PCA or SCCA, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by PCA or SCCA, subject to the following conditions:

1. Training of approved personnel shall occur prior to their authorization to carry weapons. The training shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent and CFO and shall, at a minimum, include training on judgment, pistol shooting, marksmanship, and a review of current laws relating to the use of force for the defense of self or others. The school district shall pay all necessary training, meal and lodging expenses associated with the required training. An individual's prior military or law enforcement service may substitute for certain training requirements if he or she has previously served as a certified law enforcement officer or has had military service which involved similar weapons training.
2. An approved list of the types and quantity of weapons and ammunition authorized to be possessed or carried shall be prepared and maintained by the CFO (who serves as the Operations Manager);
3. All Georgia POST certified officers are automatically authorized to carry a weapon once they are hired as a School Resource Officer by the governing board.
4. Selection of personnel to possess or carry a weapon shall be done strictly on a voluntary basis. Participation in either armed security guard training programs, the reserve police officer program or a designated training course shall be voluntary and shall not in any way be considered a requirement for continued employment with the school district as per 70 OS 5-149.2. The final appointment will be made by the Board consistent with the requirements of this policy. Each employee appointed must be licensed under the laws of the state to carry a firearm and shall be subject to an annual criminal history background check. Approval will not be granted for any employee who has had an employment or other history indicating any type of mental or emotional instability as determined by the Board. The Superintendent and/or CFO shall be able at any time to remove or suspend the authority granted to any employee under this policy; and

5. Weapons possessed or carried by personnel under this paragraph shall be secured as follows: Weapons should be concealed at all times feasibly possible. They must be carried in a body holster and not in a purse, briefcase, bag, or similar other accessory which is not secured on the body. In rare instances when it may not be appropriate for the weapon to be concealed on the person's body, the weapon must be maintained in a secured lock safe or similar lock box that cannot be easily accessed by students.

In addition to those employees appointed pursuant to this policy, the Board recognizes that other exceptions exist under O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1. All records regarding the appointment of individual employees and the implementation of this program shall be kept confidential and exempt from production under the Open Records Act as specified in Georgia law. Any Board member or district personnel that reveals the identity of an authorized personnel may be subject to discipline, up to and including removal from Board or termination of employment.

Approved: August 18, 2019

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