



## **POLICY No. 2030**

### **USE OF SPECIALLY TRAINED ANIMALS IN A SEARCH FOR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ON SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY**

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

THE SCHOOL BOARD SEEKS TO MAINTAIN A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF ITS STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS. TO ENSURE THIS CLIMATE, THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL CONTINUE TO USE SPECIALLY TRAINED ANIMALS TO SEARCH FOR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ON SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. THIS POLICY IS NOT APPLICABLE IN AN EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MAY TAKE ANY AND ALL LEGALLY PERMISSABLE ACTIONS IN SUCH EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCE.

#### **I. Requirements for Specially Trained Animals**

- A. The Specially Trained Animals for this program will be a dog (“Dog”) handled by a trained law enforcement officer, the dog having specific training to detect the scent of ammunition and firearms.
- B. While on school property, the Dog must be under the control of its handler at all times.
- C. The Dog’s role shall be to conduct an initial screening by sniffing the environment to detect the target odor from firearms and ammunition. A sniff which results in a response from the animal is an “alert.”

#### **II. Procedure for Search for Firearms and Ammunition subsequent to an “alert” by the Dog**

- A. The use of the Dog to sniff for firearms and ammunition may occur on any School Board property, unless a Principal documents a consultation with the Cadre Director and Area Security Manager to opt out of the program; and includes buses used for in-county or out-of-county and/or overnight field trips;
- B. The Dog will be used in a school’s common areas such as parking lots, walk and hallways, areas where individuals enter and exit the school campus, but will not be allowed in cafeteria, classrooms, media centers or any other location where education instruction is actively occurring;
- C. If the Dog, “alerts” on an object or area, the law enforcement officer will conduct a search of the object or area.
- D. If the Dog, “alerts” on an individual, the law enforcement officer will escort the individual to the school’s administrative offices for follow up questions. If permissible under the law and by the law enforcement officer’s agency’s policies, a search of the individual will be conducted by the law enforcement officer as soon as possible.

1. School administrators shall make every effort to contact a minor's or student's parents prior to any questioning by the law enforcement officer to afford the parent a reasonable opportunity to be present during questioning.
  2. Any questioning by a law enforcement officer of a student of the school concerning a search yielding firearms or ammunition shall be conducted in the presence of a parent and/or school administrator.
- E. If lawfully permissible, the law enforcement officer is responsible for conducting any subsequent search, if deemed necessary, of the individual's belongings and for confiscating any firearms and ammunition.
  - F. All confiscated illegally possessed substances or objects shall be turned over to law enforcement or Special Investigative Unit of Broward County Public School.
  - G. The school administrator shall take appropriate disciplinary action regarding the student or employee.
  - H. If an individual refuses to be searched, the individual may be subject to arrest and/or discipline.

### **III. Notice**

- A. In each K-12 school, in places readily seen by students, employees, and visitors, including each single point of entry and other locations where students may frequent, notices must be posted that a student's locker or other storage area is subject to search, upon reasonable suspicion, for prohibited or illegally possessed substances or objects.
- B. Notice shall include that a search for illegally possessed substances or objects does not prohibit the use of specially trained animals.

### **IV: Law Enforcement Partner Collaboration**

- A. The School Board requires that law enforcement agencies collaborate with the School District's Office of Safety and Security should they desire to pursue utilization of a Dog at a school within their jurisdiction.

**Policy Custodian:** Office of Safe Schools

**Former Policy Number:** 2430

**Policy Status:** Active

**Authority:** F.S. §1001.41, F.S. §1001.42, F.S. §1006.09(9)

**Policy Adopted:** Adopted December 15, 2020, as an emergency policy

**Policy Amended:** 03/07/2023