

**District:** Tupelo Public School District  
**Section:** G - Personnel  
**Policy Code:** GBS - Use of Force, School District Police and Firearms

## **PURPOSE**

To establish parameters and guidelines for the use of force by School Resource Officers and Campus Enforcement Officers in the District.

## **POLICY**

1. School Resource Officers and Campus Enforcement Officers (collectively, "Officers") may use only the minimum force reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of students, staff, the public and the officer.

a. Control is obtained through many methods: advice, persuasion, warnings, or the use of physical force.

2. While the use of reasonable physical force may be necessary where situations cannot otherwise be brought under control, an Officer will exhaust other reasonable alternatives, or have determined that they would be obviously ineffective under the particular circumstances involved, before resorting to the use of force.

3. Officers are authorized to use whatever force is necessary to protect others and themselves from bodily harm.

4. The use of excessive, unwarranted force or brutality is not tolerated under any circumstances.

5. The Board authorizes the superintendent to promulgate administrative procedures in furtherance of this policy.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

### **1. PARAMETERS FOR THE USE OF NON-DEADLY FORCE**

1. Where deadly force is not authorized, Officers will assess the incident in order to determine which non-deadly force technique or weapon will be best to de-escalate the incident and bring it under control in a safe manner.

2. Officers may use non-deadly force techniques and issued equipment for resolution of incidents as follows:

1. To protect themselves or another from physical harm;

2. To restrain or subdue a resistant individual; or

3. To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

### **2. PARAMETERS FOR THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE**



1. Only Officers who are trained and qualified to carry a firearm pursuant to applicable law and regulations may carry a firearm while on duty. An Officer who has taken an extended leave of absence will be required to re-qualify before returning to duty.
1. Whenever possible, Officers will exhaust every other reasonable means of defense before resorting to the use of their firearms.
  - a. Justification for the use of deadly force is limited to the facts known to the officer at the time the decision to use deadly force is made. Facts unknown to the officer shall not be considered in a later determination of justification of the use of deadly force by an officer, nor as mitigating factors in determining post-deadly force disposition of the incident.
- c. Officers are authorized to use deadly force in order to:
  1. Protect the officer or another from what is reasonably believed to be an immediate threat from death or serious bodily harm; or
  2. Prevent the escape of a fleeing felon whom the officer has probable cause to believe will pose a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the Officer or others.
- d. Before using a firearm, Officers will identify themselves and state their intent to fire, where feasible.

### 3. REPORTING USE OF FORCE

- a. When an Officer uses force, the Officer immediately notifies the Director of Security who will immediately notify the superintendent. The Officer submits a written incident report to the Director of Security by the end of the next working day. Within the incident report, the Officer states the facts that led him/her to believe that a particular force option was reasonable and necessary.
- b. Types of force which must be reported include, but are not limited to, the following:
  1. Any use of physical force (excluding routine handcuffing)
  2. Use of firearm
  3. Use of oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray)
  4. Use of neck restraint
  5. Use of any defensive tactic/pain compliance techniques
  6. Use of non-authorized weapon, tool, or instrument

### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF CRITICAL INCIDENTS

All reported use of force is reviewed by the superintendent or designee to determine whether:

1. District rules, policies, or procedures were violated.
2. The relevant policy was clearly understandable and effective to cover the situation.
3. Department use of force training is adequate.
4. All findings of policy violations or training inadequacies are reported to the appropriate authority for resolution and/or discipline.
5. All use of force incident reports are retained as required by departmental policy and/or law.
6. A regular review of the use of force incidents is conducted by the superintendent or designee to ascertain training or policy needs.