

## **ARMED CAMPUS SECURITY MONITORS**

The Board determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to authorize school security personnel to carry firearms on school premises to protect students and staff from violent conduct constituting an emergency, and to help ensure a safe and secure educational environment. The School District may employ former certified and commissioned law enforcement officers as Armed Campus Security Monitors under the conditions outlined in this policy.

**DEFINITIONS.** The following definitions apply to this policy:

**A. “Firearm”** means a handgun, as recommended by the department of public safety and authorized by the public school insurance authority, adopted for use by a local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction within which a school district or charter school is located.

**B. “School premises”** means:

(1) the building and grounds, including playgrounds, playing fields, and parking areas, and any school bus or vehicle of a public school, whether owned or under contract by the school district or charter school, in or on which school or school-related activities are being conducted under the supervision of the local school board or governing body of a charter school; or

(2) any other public buildings or grounds, including playing fields and parking areas that are not public school property, in or on which school-related and school-sanctioned activities are being performed.

## **EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS OF ARMED CAMPUS SECURITY MONITORS**

Prior to beginning their duties for the District as as an Armed Campus Security Monitor with authority to carry a firearm on school premises, a person shall meet the following requirements:

**A.** provide proof that the former law enforcement officer was certified and commissioned for no less than three years and left law enforcement in good standing;

**B.** successful completion of a 16-hour program of training, approved by the public education department in collaboration with the New Mexico public school insurance authority, for working with students with special needs;

**C.** successful completion of a four-hour program of training, approved by the public education department in collaboration with the New Mexico public school insurance authority, on cultural competency and prohibited profiling practices;

**D.** proof of current firearms training and successful firearms qualification provided by a certified use-of-force instructor through a local law enforcement agency, or through a New Mexico law enforcement academy certified firearms instructor approved by a local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which the District is located. Firearms training shall include the following:

(1) an initial use-of-force training program of eight hours, prior to employment as armed campus security monitors, including the following topics:

- (a) resistance;
- (b) confrontational dynamics;
- (c) deadly force (when it is justifiable);
- (d) communication;
- (e) self-control, fear, and anger management in the use of force;
- (f) consequences of unreasonable force;
- (g) vicarious liability;
- (h) legality of use of force in school setting by armed campus security monitors;
- (i) documenting use of force;
- (j) search and seizure; and
- (k) other topics as recommended by the local law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school;

(2) an initial firearms training program of 16 hours prior;

(3) prior to employment as armed campus security monitors and annually thereafter, a qualification shoot requiring qualifying scores that meet or exceed the New Mexico law enforcement academy standard scores in daytime qualification shoot and night or low light qualification shoot; and

(4) an annual firearms manipulation training program of four hours.

E. a background check indicating the individual has not been convicted of a crime or engaged in behavior that violates prohibitions against ethical misconduct pursuant to the New Mexico School Personnel Act, Section 22-10A-5 NMSA 1978; or Subsection A of 6.12.12.8 NMAC, in addition to other requirements applicable to all employees; and

F. The armed campus security monitor will be commissioned as a special police officer through Farmington City Ordinance 15-3-2 by the Farmington Police Department Chief of Police. The armed campus security monitor will receive a commission card evidencing the person's status as a special police officer from the Farmington Police Department and will carry the commission card at all times when on duty.

#### **ADDITIONAL ARMED CAMPUS SECURITY MONITORS REQUIREMENTS**

A. Prior to armed campus security monitors being permitted to carry firearms, armed campus security monitors shall successfully pass a physical and psychological evaluation to determine suitability to carry a firearm.

(1) The physical examination shall:

- (a) be conducted and signed by a licensed medical doctor;
- (b) be completed on the public education department-approved form; and
- (c) indicate the individual is fit for duty.

(2) The psychological evaluation shall:

- (a) be conducted and signed by a licensed psychologist;
- (b) be completed on the public education department-approved form; and
- (c) indicate the individual is fit for duty.

**B.** The school district shall bear the cost of the physical and psychological evaluations for current and potential armed campus security monitors.

### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

A. The armed campus security monitor shall receive the following additional training within twelve months of being assigned as an armed campus security monitor: the differences in successful law enforcement when conducted inside a school environment (including understanding the adolescent brain, crisis management and de-escalation techniques), tools to be a positive role model for youth (including mentoring and informal counseling techniques), strategies for connecting students and families to appropriate resources that will assist students to succeed in school (including strategies for mitigating truancy) an understanding of adolescent development and adolescent mental health disorders and treatment, and identification and response to students who are suspected of having a mental health need (including critical skills and capacity for appropriately responding to behavior issues that are typically observed among adolescents with mental health needs).

### **LIMITING SCOPE OF WORK OF ARMED CAMPUS SECURITY MONITORS**

The armed campus security monitor is prohibited from performing any other job in the school district, other than school security, while carrying a firearm. The armed campus security monitor may not subject a person to custodial arrest. Because the armed campus security monitor is a specially commissioned police officer, the armed campus security monitor may temporarily detain an individual for a violent offense that may constitute a felony until the individual is subject to custodial arrest by a law enforcement officer.

### **PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT AS ARMED CAMPUS SECURITY MONITORS**

Persons prohibited from employment as armed campus security monitors include the following:

- A. an individual who has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude and the criminal conviction relates to the employment as armed campus security monitors;
- B. an individual who has been convicted of trafficking in controlled substances, criminal sexual penetration or a related sexual offense, child abuse, or sexual exploitation of children;
- C. an individual who has been subject to an employment investigation or other investigation that resulted in a finding of ethical misconduct, including:
  - (1) inappropriate touching;
  - (2) sexual harassment;
  - (3) sexual assault;
  - (4) sexual abuse;
  - (5) discrimination; or
  - (6) behavior intended to induce a child into engaging in illegal, immoral, or other prohibited behavior.

- D. an individual who has been convicted of battery on a household member or dependent, criminal damage to property of a household member or dependent, or stalking;
- E. an individual who has been convicted of the negligent or illegal use of a firearm; or
- F. an individual who has received formal discipline for the use of excessive force.

## **STUDENT SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS**

The armed campus security monitor shall be considered school security personnel with the authority to search people and property as provided herein and in other board policy. In most instances, a school official or other authorized person other than the armed campus security monitor shall conduct the searches instead of the armed campus security monitor but the armed campus security monitor may be present to assist and protect the person performing the search. As a general matter, school officials shall instruct armed campus security monitors that they are required to have a warrant or probable cause to perform his or her own search on school premises without the authority of an authorized individual; however, an armed campus security monitor may perform a search of a person or property based on reasonable suspicion that the individual possesses a weapon. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the armed campus security monitor shall have the power to search within constitutional limits in appropriate circumstances.

The armed campus security monitor shall comply with applicable law and District policy with respect to the interrogation or interview of students suspected of a crime.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

The use of personally identifiable information from student education records shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The armed campus security monitor shall be considered a “school official” under FERPA and may be provided students’ education records or personally identifiable information (PII) from education records on an as-needed basis to carry out armed campus security monitor duties for legitimate educational purposes. The Superintendent or designee shall make the determination regarding the educational records the armed campus security monitor shall have access to using the foregoing criteria. The armed campus security monitor may only use PII for the purpose for which the disclosure was made and to promote school safety and the physical security of students. The armed campus security monitor, acting as a school official, may not disclose PII obtained from education records, without prior consent, to others, including law enforcement officers who are not acting in the capacity as school officials, unless the disclosure fits within one of the exceptions to consent in FERPA.

*Adopted:*

LEGAL REF: NMSA § 22-5-18  
NMSA § 22-10A-40 to 40.1  
6.11.2.10 NMAC

CROSS REF:

JIH STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHES, AND ARRESTS  
JR-R STUDENT RECORDS  
CFI VIDEO SURVEILLANCE  
JICI WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

REF.: [32A-4-3 NMSA](#) (1978)  
6.11.2.10 NMAC