

Sec. 1. BOARD AUTHORITY

The Board must ensure that at least one-armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each school campus. *Education Code 12.104(b)(3), 37.0814(a)*. The Board may authorize one or more individuals to carry firearms on Triumph Public High Schools (the “School”) premises under Section 46.03, Penal Code. *Education Code 37.0814(d); Penal Code 46.03(a)(1)(A)*.

The Triumph Public High Schools Board of Directors (“Board”) may employ or contract with security personnel and/or to contract with a security services contractor licensed under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, for the provision of one or more commissioned security officers. *Education Code 12.104(a-1)(1), 37.081(a)*.

As part of Triumph Public High Schools’ comprehensive safety program, Triumph Public High Schools has entered into one or more agreements with a private security services contractor licensed by the Texas Department of Safety (“DPS”) to provide Security Officers. Contracted security officers shall provide services consistent with the terms of the agreement and Board policy.

Sec. 2. DEFINITIONS

1. Firearm. “Firearm” means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use. Firearm does not include a firearm that may have, as an integral part, a folding knife blade or other characteristics of weapons made illegal by this chapter and that is: (A) an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899; or (B) a replica of an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899, but only if the replica does not use rim fire or center fire ammunition. *Penal Code 46.01(3)(A)-(B)*.
2. Handgun. “Handgun” means any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand. *Penal Code 46.01(5)*.
3. School Premises. “School Premises” means a building, a portion of a building, or any grounds owned, leased, or rented by Triumph Public High Schools or under the control of the School. *Penal Code 46.03(a)(1), (c)(4)*.
4. School Property. “School Property” means any personal property on School Premises including, but not limited to, a motor vehicle, construction equipment, HVAC equipment, signage, furniture, computers, cell phones, smart boards, and tablets.
5. Security Officer(s). “Security Officer(s)” means security personnel with whom Triumph Public High Schools has employed or contracted with for the provision of security services and/or security personnel provided through a contract with a security services contractor licensed under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code.
6. Commissioned Security Officer(s). “Commissioned Security Officer(s)” means a security officer to whom a security officer commission has been issued by DPS.

Sec. 3. JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of Security Officers shall include the school campus to which the officer is assigned to include all territory in the geographic boundaries of Triumph Public High Schools and all real and personal property outside the boundaries of the School that is owned, leased, or rented by or otherwise under the control of Triumph Public High Schools and the Board. *Education Code 37.081(a)*.

Sec. 4. AUTHORIZATION

a) Eligibility

Only a Commissioned Security Officer who has completed the DPS Level III training course (or a peace officer who is exempt under 19 TAC 35.141(b)) is eligible for authorization to carry a firearm on School Premises.

Non-commissioned security personnel may serve as unarmed Security Officers only.

b) Written Authorization

Pursuant to its authority under state law, the Board shall authorize eligible Security Officers to possess certain firearms in schools, at Board meetings, and at school-sponsored or school-related events on School Premises, to the extent allowed by law. Each contract for specifically authorized Security Officers shall be approved by action of the Board. The Superintendent shall then issue written authorization to approve each Security Officer.

Security Officers are authorized to possess a handgun on school premises in a manner consistent with their professional license and certifications as issued by DPS, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (“TCOLE”), or other licensing agency or authority. The Board may establish additional criteria or limitations through the specific written authorization issued to Security Officers or through written regulations applicable to all Security Officers.

c) Handgun License

Each Security Officer authorized to carry a firearm under this policy shall be required to maintain a current license to carry a handgun in accordance with state law.

Sec. 5. DUTIES

a) General Duties

Security Officers shall be accountable to and shall report to the campus principal. A Security Officer shall:

1. Protect the safety and welfare of any person in the jurisdiction of the Security Officer;

2. Protect the School Property in the jurisdiction of the Security Officer;
3. Maintain visibility and school security by patrolling campus hallways, completing door checks, and monitoring the perimeter of the campus throughout the day;
4. Routinely check exterior doors to ensure they are locked;
5. Inform campus administrators of malfunctioning cameras, doors, locks, gates, windows, etc., that require the submission of a work order for repair;
6. Assist with campus safety drills (i.e., fire, hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate, shelter);
7. Assist and coordinate with law enforcement personnel as needed;
8. Notify the police, fire department, emergency responders, or other appropriate authority of any situation requiring immediate attention;
9. Prepare written materials (i.e., incident reports, referrals, etc.) for purposes of documenting activities, and timely provide such written materials to the campus principal;
10. Provide Active Shooter training for staff and students for each campus;
11. Perform other tasks and carry out all other lawful duties as directed by the Superintendent; and
12. Carry out all other duties in accordance with the contract for security services that have been collaboratively agreed upon between the company and the campus principal and Superintendent.

b) Law Enforcement Duties

A Security Officer may not perform the routine law enforcement duties of a peace officer unless the duty is performed in response to an emergency that poses a threat of death or serious bodily injury to a student, school employee, or other individual at the school campus. *Education Code 37.089*.

c) Student Discipline and School Administration

The Board shall coordinate with district campus behavior coordinators and other school employees to ensure that Security Officers are tasked only with duties related to law enforcement intervention and not tasked with behavioral or administrative duties better addressed by other School employees. *Education Code 37.081(d-4)*. The campus principal retains final authority to assign disciplinary consequences to students and staff.

Security Officer duties do not include:

1. Routine student discipline or school administrative tasks; or
2. Contact with students unrelated to the law enforcement duties of the Security Officer.

Education Code 37.081(d-2).

This limitation does not prevent Security Officers from having informal contact with students unrelated to:

1. The assigned security or law enforcement duties of the Security Officer; or
2. An incident involving student behavior or law enforcement.

Education Code 37.081(d-3).

Sec. 6. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Security Officers are responsible for providing their own uniform that complies with state regulations. Security Officers are responsible for providing their own firearm, if applicable, and any other equipment required for performing their duties.

Body worn cameras are not permitted.

Sec. 7. REVOCATION OF AUTHORIZATION

Written authorization issued to a Security Officer under this policy may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the Superintendent or the Board upon written notice.

Sec. 8. CONFIDENTIALITY

Triumph Public High Schools has determined that each Security Officer assigned to the School has a legitimate educational interest in education records as that term is defined under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), 20 USC § 1232g, for the sole and limited purpose of the assigned security and law enforcement duties of the Security Officer and/or collecting certain incident-based data related to security services, and that the Security Officer(s) are the agent(s) of Triumph Public High Schools solely for these limited purposes.

Security Officers shall maintain the confidentiality of education records as required by FERPA. Security Officers shall not discuss, disclose, or reveal to third parties, including other students, information regarding individual student behavior or discipline.

Sec. 9. COMPLAINTS

Any person with a complaint against the performance of Security Officers under this policy shall direct their concerns to the Triumph Public High Schools Title IX officer.