

GAMB Authorization of Enhanced Security

7/14/2022

The Cobb County Board of Education (Board) is committed to maintaining a safe and secure working and learning environment. Unless authorized by the Board or Superintendent 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 the Cobb County School District (District), at school functions, and on school buses or other transportation furnished by the District, as those terms are defined by O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1. Employees in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130.1, the Superintendent may authorize certain personnel to possess or carry weapons on any property or in any building owned or leased by the District, at a school function, in school safety zones, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the District (as those terms are defined by O.C.G.A. 16-11-130.1), subject to the following conditions:

- Personnel whose primary responsibility is classroom supervision will not be authorized to possess or carry weapons.
- Personnel who have been authorized in writing to have in such person's possession or use within a school safety zone, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by a school a weapon will be provided written verification which will specify the weapon or weapons which have been authorized and the time period during which the authorization is valid.
- Training of approved personnel shall occur prior to their authorization to carry weapons. The training shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent 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 Superintendent may substitute for certain training requirements an individual's prior military or law enforcement service if he or she has previously served as a certified law enforcement officer or has had military service which involved similar weapons training.
- 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 Superintendent.
- Selection of personnel to possess or carry a weapon shall be done strictly on a voluntary basis and no personnel will be terminated or otherwise retaliated against for refusing to possess or carry a weapon. The final appointment will be made by the Superintendent 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 Superintendent after review of relevant documentation and information. The Superintendent shall be able at any time to remove or suspend the authority granted to any employee under this policy.
- Weapons possessed or carried by personnel under this paragraph shall be secured as follows: Concealed weapons are permitted if they are carried on the person and not in a purse, briefcase, bag, or similar other accessory which is not secured on the body. If maintained separate from the body, the weapon shall be maintained in a secured lock safe or similar lock box that cannot be easily accessed by students or unauthorized individuals.

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 exempt from production under the Open Records Act as specified in Georgia law.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures consistent with this Policy.

Adopted: 7/14/22

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A 16-11-127.1	Carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions or on school property
O.C.G.A. 16-11-130.1	Allowing personnel to carry weapons in certain school safety zones and at school