

SUPPORT SERVICES

Safety, Security and Communications

Security of Buildings and Grounds

It is the goal of the Knox County R1 School District to provide a safe learning environment for students and a safe working environment for employees. The Board directs the superintendent or designee to routinely inspect the district's property and bring proposals for improving security to the Board.

Definitions

School Protection Officer (SPO) - An elementary or secondary school teacher or administrator who has been authorized to carry a concealed weapon to assist the district's security plan.

Property Access

In general, district buildings and property are not open to the public unless the district has specifically opened a building or property for public use or for an event to which the public is invited. The superintendent or designee will establish regular business hours and locations where members of the general public may contact the district and interact with district employees.

The superintendent or designee will set hours when parents/guardians may drop off and pick up their students. The district is not responsible for the supervision of students except during regular school hours or other times designated by the district.

The superintendent or designee will determine which district employees need access to district buildings or grounds outside regular building hours and provide those employees with keys or electronic access. The district will maintain a list of employees with access and will routinely monitor this list to ensure that only current employees continue to have access. An employee's access may be revoked at any time.

All district employees and volunteers are required to maintain security in district buildings, enforce building access rules and take action when doors are left unsecured or district security is otherwise compromised.

Security Personnel

The district may employ or contract for trained and appropriately licensed personnel or independent contractors to provide security during the regular school day, after regular business hours or during events or activities where additional security is determined necessary.

School Protection Officers

The district may designate one or more elementary or secondary teachers or administrators as SPO's. Before designating a teacher or administrator as an SPO, the Board shall hold a public hearing on whether to allow such a designation. The Board shall publish notice of the hearing at least 15 days before the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the city or county in which the school is located.

The Board will hold a public hearing on whether to allow the use of SPO's in the district before adopting or amending a policy that authorizes such use. The Board may determine, in a closed session Board meeting, whether to authorize the designated SPO to carry a concealed weapon. Once authorized, the SPO may carry a concealed weapon into any school in the district, but it is not required. The SPO has the right to determine appropriate times to carry a weapon; however, at no time shall the weapon be out of the personal control of the SPO while it is on school grounds. When armed, the SPO is authorized to take all reasonable and necessary measures to neutralize a deadly force threat. Beyond a deadly force threat (i.e., those likely to cause death or serious bodily injury), the SPO will take only those reasonable actions expected of a teacher or administrator. The Board may revoke the designation of a person as an SPO for any reason. Persons who have their designations as SPO's revoked shall have no right to appeal the revocation decision, and the Board's decision is final.

Surveillance Cameras

The district utilizes surveillance equipment on district property and in district facilities for security purposes.

Firearms and Other Weapons

No person shall carry a firearm, a concealed weapon or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any school, onto any school transportation or

onto the premises of any function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by the district, except for authorized law enforcement officials or properly designated SPO's. Adults may possess weapons on school property for the limited purpose of facilitating or participating in a school-sanctioned firearm-related event. School officials are prohibited from authorizing any person to bring weapons on school property or to school activities, including concealed weapons, beyond the exceptions stated in this policy. Students may participate in school-sanctioned gun safety courses, student military or ROTC courses, or other school-sponsored or club-sponsored firearm-related events, provided the student does not carry a firearm or other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any school, onto any school bus, or onto the premises of any other function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by school officials or the district School Board.

Any person who possesses a weapon in violation of this policy will be asked to leave district property. In addition, district administrators may report the incident to law enforcement officials, ban the person from school property or school events in accordance with current policy or seek other legal remedies. Possession of weapons by students is strictly prohibited except by those exceptions granted in this policy.

Loss, Damage and Theft

The superintendent or designee will establish controls to prevent the loss, damage and theft of district property. The administrators, department heads and supervisors of programs, buildings and departments are responsible for creating and enforcing practices and protocols to secure equipment and supplies and for budgeting for the locks, safes or storage facilities necessary to prevent loss and theft and to protect district property.

All district employees must report missing or damaged property to their supervisor as soon as they become aware that property is missing or damaged. District patrons and students are encouraged to report incidents of damage to or theft of district property. All reports of missing or damaged property will be investigated.

The Board shall seek all legal redress against persons found to have committed acts of willful or malicious abuse, destruction, damage or theft of district property. The superintendent or designee is authorized to file charges on behalf of the district for theft, vandalism or other criminal activity involving district property.

Students found guilty of theft or willful damage to any district property will be disciplined in accordance with Board policies and regulations. Any employee whose actions or inactions cause the loss, damage or theft of district property may be disciplined or terminated. The district will seek restitution for willful damage to district property under the laws of this state. In the case of minors, restitution will be sought from their parents/guardians.

Security Records

In accordance with law and district policy, the district has closed records pertaining to district security guidelines, policies and response plans; structural plans of real property; security systems; and access and authorization codes for security systems. Other security-related records will only be provided to members of the public upon request when required by law.

Adopted: August 29,2000

Re-Adopted: May 20, 2025

Knox County R-I School District, Edina, Missouri