

Permanent Personnel**SCHOOL POLICE OFFICERS**

I. Minimum Requirements

Employment requirements set forth by the Police Standards Commission and F.S. 943.13, quoted below, provide that any person employed as a law enforcement officer shall:

1. "Be at least 19 years of age.
2. Be a citizen of the United States, notwithstanding any law of the state to the contrary.
3. Be a high school graduate or its 'equivalent' as the term may be determined by the commission.
4. Not have been convicted of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or a false statement, or have received a dishonorable discharge from any of the Armed Forces of the United States. Any person who, after July 1, 1981, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is found guilty of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or a false statement, is not eligible for employment or appointment as an officer, notwithstanding suspension of sentence or withholding of adjudication. Notwithstanding this subsection, any person who has pled nolo contendere to a misdemeanor involving a false statement prior to December 1, 1985, and has had such record sealed or expunged shall not be deemed ineligible for employment or appointment as an officer.
5. Have his or her processed fingerprints on file with the employing agency or, if a private correctional officer, have his or her fingerprints on file with the Department of Corrections or the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. If administrative delays are caused by the department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the person has complied with subsections (1)-(4) and (6)-(9), he or she may be employed or appointed for a period not to exceed 1 calendar year from the date he/she was employed or appointed or until return of the processed fingerprints documenting noncompliance with subsections (1)-(4) or subsection (7), whichever occurs first.
6. Have passed a physical examination by a licensed physician, based on specifications established by the commission.
7. Have a good moral character as determined by a background investigation under procedures established by the commission.
8. Execute and submit to the employing agency or, if a private correctional officer, submit to the appropriate governmental entity an affidavit-of-applicant form, adopted by the commission, attesting to his/her

compliance with subsections (1)-(7). The affidavit shall be executed under oath and constitutes an official statement within the purview of s. 837.06. The affidavit shall include conspicuous language that the intentional false execution of the affidavit constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree.

9. Complete a commission-approved basic recruit training program for the applicable criminal justice discipline, unless exempt under this subsection. An applicant who has:
 - (a) Completed a comparable basic recruit training program for the applicable criminal justice discipline in another state or for the Federal Government; and
 - (b) Served as a full-time sworn officer in another state or for the Federal Government for at least one year is exempt in accordance with s. 943.131(2) from completing the commission-approved basic recruit training program.
10. Achieve an acceptable score on the officer certification examination for the applicable criminal justice discipline.
11. Comply with the continuing training or education requirements of s. 943.135.”

In addition, an employee hired as a school police officer will:

- A. Have a valid Certificate of Compliance or Comparative Certificate of Compliance issued by the Police Standards and Training Commission and shall have fulfilled all requirements for obtaining this certificate, or
- B. Immediately upon being hired by the School Board, obtain a Certificate of Compliance issued by the Police Standards and Training Commission by completing the course of study required for same at a recognized police academy.

Failure to successfully complete the required course of study within the prescribed period of time will result in termination of employment.

- C. Have and maintain a valid State of Florida Drivers Operators License.

II. Appointment

This School Board may commission one or more school police officers for the protection and safety of school personnel, property, and students within the school district.

III. Powers

- A. The school police officer shall have and exercise, throughout this county, the power to make arrests for violations of law on the property of the School Board

and to arrest persons, whether on or off such property, who violate any law on such property, under the same conditions which deputy sheriffs may, by law, make arrests, and shall have authority to carry weapons while in the performance of their official duties.

- B. The school police officer as authorized through Mutual Aid Agreements may enforce laws off School Board property as specified in the written agreement between The School Board of Dade County, Florida, and other local jurisdictions.
- C. The school police officer shall have authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state when such violations occur on or about any property or facilities which are under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the School Board.

IV. Bond

Before entering into the performance of their duties, every school police officer shall be covered by a good and sufficient bond, payable to the School Board, in the penal sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), with a surety company authorized to do business in this state as surety thereon, and approved by the Board, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties and to pay any and all damage expenses or loss by reasons of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in the faithful performance of their public duties.

V. Compensation

School police officers shall receive salary only from this School Board for the performance of their official duty.

VI. Suit for Damages on Bond

Any person who has been damaged, either in their person or in their property, by the wrongful act of an officer, may bring suit with redress of such wrong on the bond of the officer hereinbefore provided for.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 23.1225; 230.23(5)(a) and (b); 230.23(10)(h); 230.33(7)(b); 230.33(12)(h); 316.640; 943.13 F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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