

Use of Force by Campus Security

Policy

It is the policy of the District that campus security shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the campus security personnel at the time of the event, to effectively bring an incident under control. "Reasonableness" of the force used must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable person with the training and experience of a security employee who is on the scene at the time of the incident. Any interpretation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that campus security personnel are sometimes forced to make split second decisions in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation campus security personnel might encounter, it is recognized that each campus security person must be entrusted with well reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident. While it is the ultimate objective to minimize injury to everyone involved, nothing in this policy requires campus security staff to actually sustain physical injury before applying reasonable force.

Factors Used to Determine the Reasonableness of Force

When determining whether or not to apply any level of force and evaluating whether a campus security personnel has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration.

These factors include, but are not limited:

- (a) The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the campus security personnel at the time).
- (b) Campus security/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number of campus security personnel vs. subjects).
- (c) Influence of drugs/alcohol (mental capacity).
- (d) Proximity of weapons.
- (e) Time and circumstances permitting, the availability of other options (what resources are reasonably available to the campus security person under the circumstances).
- (f) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual.

- (g) Training and experience of the campus security person.
- (h) Potential for injury to citizens, campus security personnel and subject(s).
- (i) Other exigent circumstances.

It is recognized that campus security may need to make split-second decisions and that the amount of time available to evaluate and respond to changing circumstances may impact his/her decision.

While various degrees of force exist, each campus security person is expected to use only that degree of force reasonable under the circumstances to successfully accomplish the purpose of protecting students, staff, the campus security person and the subject(s) from harm.

Nondeadly Force Applications

Any application of force that is not reasonably anticipated and intended under the circumstances to create a substantial likelihood of death or very serious injury shall be considered nondeadly force. Each campus security person is provided with equipment, training and skills to assist in control of individuals as well as protection of students, staff and the public.

Pain Compliance Techniques

Pain compliance techniques may be very effective in controlling a passive or actively resisting individual. Campus security personnel may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which the campus security person has received District approved training and only when the campus security personnel reasonably believes that the use of such a technique appears necessary to further a legitimate District purpose. Campus security persons utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider the totality of the circumstance including, but not limited to:

- (a) The potential for injury to the campus security person(s) or others if the technique is not used.
- (b) The potential risk of serious injury to the individual being controlled.
- (c) The degree to which the pain compliance technique may be used in application relative to the level of resistance.
- (d) The nature of the offense involved.
- (e) The level of resistance of the individual(s) involved.
- (f) The need for prompt resolution of the situation.
- (g) If time permits, other reasonable alternatives.

The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the campus security determines that compliance has been achieved.

Deadly Force Applications

The use of force is considered deadly force if the campus security person reasonably anticipates and intends that the force applied will create a substantial likelihood of causing death or very serious injury under the circumstances.

Use of deadly force is justified in the following circumstances:

A campus security person is justified in using deadly physical force only when he/she believes it necessary for self-defense or to defend a third person from what he/she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force.

Use of Force Review Committee

The Superintendent shall assemble and convene a Use of Force Review Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding any use of force incident and will designate a member of the Committee to serve as chairperson. The Committee will be comprised of the following: one school administrator; one teacher; one classified employee; one board member; two community members; the Silverton Police Chief or his/her designee. None of the Committee members are to be employees of the school in which the incident occurred.

Annual Review

An annual review will be conducted on all use of force incidents which resulted in a review by the Use of Force Review Committee and an incident report being forwarded to the Superintendent. The purpose of the review will be to examine use of force incidents which may be useful in identifying District policy and/or training needs. The results of the annual review will be shared with the Silver Falls School District Board.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 161.015](#)
[ORS 161.205](#)
[ORS 161.209](#)
[ORS 161.219\(3\)](#)
[ORS 161.255\(2\)](#)

Cross Reference(s):

JGAB - Use of Restraint and Seclusion