

**SAFETY: USE OF FORCE – SSO CARRYING OF FIREARM**

The Town of Web Union Free I School District recognizes its responsibility to promote and foster safety for the students it educates, its staff, and members of the public who visit and utilize its facilities, to ensure a safe learning and working environment. Relatedly is the District's obligation to ensure the physical safety of students, staff, and visitors to the District. In accordance with Article 265 of the New York State Penal Law, the Board of Education has the authority to approve the carrying of a duly registered and approved firearm by properly trained and certified individual(s) (hereinafter referred to as a School Safety Officer, or "SSO") for purposes of protecting the health and safety of persons present on the school campus.

For an SSO approved for the carrying of a firearm on school property, an SSO shall may only engage in the use of force with such firearm where the defense of justification pursuant to New York Penal Law Article 35 applies to the use of such force. The defense of justification is defined in Section 35.05 of Article 35 of the New York Penal Law and shall govern the conduct of any SSO's carrying and/or use of a firearm on school property. An SSO shall also be subject to the following requirements governing the permitted carrying and/or use of a firearm on school property:

1. The only Firearm and ammunition carried by a SSO while on duty/on TOW UFSD premises will be the firearm and ammunition the SSO is currently approved and qualified to carry.
2. No shotgun, rifle, other long gun, pistol, or revolver will be carried, possessed, or brought on TOW UFSD property by the SSO other than the firearm currently approved and qualified to carry. A long gun can be secured in a police dept. issued vehicle under the Town of Webb Police Department policies.
3. Firearm and ammunition will always be secured on the SSO's person with the firearm carried by the SSO in a retention-type holster for added security.
4. Firearm and ammunition will never be stored or kept on TOW UFSD property when the SSO is off-duty.
5. Firearm will never be displayed by the SSO or removed from the SSO's holster unless required in accordance with NYS Penal Law Article 35.
6. Cleaning and routine maintenance of the firearm will not be performed while on TOW UFSD property.
7. SSO firearm qualification will be performed at least annually and certified by a NYS Range Instructor in accordance with applicable NYS law.
8. There will be an annual review by the SSO of Article 35 of the NYS Penal law regarding Use of Deadly Physical Force.
9. SSO will meet and confer on a regular basis with local, county and state law enforcement officials regarding the SSO, building, and premises familiarization.
10. SSO will meet and confer on a regular basis with TOW UFSD district and building administrators regarding SSO's firearm possession and procedures.
11. Annual presentation by SSO to TOW UFSD staff members regarding emergency procedures (Shelter-in-Place, Evacuation, Lockout and Lockdown etc.) and Active Shooter Awareness Training.
12. The TOW UFSD Superintendent and Town of Webb Police will investigate any complaint pertaining to the improper use or abuse of established procedures regarding the SSO's firearm.

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to adopt and impose such additional regulations and requirements as he deems necessary to govern the conduct of the SSO related to the carrying, possession, and use of a firearm on school property and to consult with local and state police officials for any best practices related to such possession, carry, and use.

APPROVED: BOARD OF EDUCATION June 19, 2018