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TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies, Chief Administrators
From: T.J. Vineyard, Compliance and Standards
Regarding: Peace Officers as security on school campuses
Date: April 6th, 2026

Following the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, there were several legislative changes in the 88th and 89th regular sessions focused on school safety.

TCOLE has received several questions about the Texas Education Code, sections 37.081 (School District Peace Officers, School Resource Officers, and Security Personnel) and 37.0814 (Armed Security Officer Required).

TCOLE staff have collaborated with Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on this bulletin.

The current standards in the Education Code do not change or conflict with past practices.

A peace officer who is appointed as a full-time peace officer is normally exempt from the requirements of Chapter 1702 of the Occupations Code (Private Security). Such an officer could work an “extra-duty” job at a school as a security officer while in police uniform if allowed by their appointing agency and agency policy. Agency policy should be constructed to ensure that officers have jurisdictional authority consistent with their appointment at any location where they could be assigned to work.

A peace officer who is appointed to a part-time peace officer or reserve law enforcement officer pay status by a school district police department can work for that agency in those capacities.

A peace officer who is appointed to a part-time peace officer or reserve law enforcement officer pay status for an agency that is not a school district police department or a department contracted to provide direct police services to a school, may not work “extra-duty” employment at a school as a uniformed police officer since they are not exempt from Chapter 1702 of the Occupations Code. If the officer possesses a valid security license through the Texas Department of Public Safety, the officer could work at the school under that license and that security uniform (in compliance with Chapter 1702) within the parameters of the district’s good cause exception, as required by Texas Education Code, section 37.0814.

School marshals are appointed by the school district, charter school, or private school, and not by a police department. School marshals are guided by different rules and standards. Someone working as a school marshal should not be in a police uniform or wearing POLICE insignias.

Appointing agency	Pay status	Work in schools	How that should look	Guiding statute
School district, charter school, or private school police department or jurisdictional agency with contractual agreement to provide police services (the police department for that school through contracted SROs)	Full-time, Part-time, or Reserve	Yes, if done as part of their regular duties assigned by the agency. Must obtain an SBLE certificate within 180 days.	Agency police uniform under agency supervision and policies (TCOLE rule 211.16 compliant)	Chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code (Law Enforcement Officers) and TCOLE rules
School district, charter school, or private school as school marshal	N/A	School marshals	Per school district policy for school marshals, NOT police uniform or POLICE identifiers	Chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code (Law Enforcement Officers) and TCOLE rules

All other law enforcement agencies (NOT school district police department)	Part-time or reserve	May work extra-duty security assignment at a school if allowed by appointing agency AND has appropriate security license.	Private security uniform and license, NOT police uniform or POLICE identifiers	Chapter 1702 of the Occupations Code (Private Security)
All other law enforcement agencies (NOT school district police department)	Full-time	May work extra-duty security assignment at a school if allowed by appointing agency.	Police uniform if allowed by appointing agency's off-duty employment policy	Chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code (Law Enforcement Officers) and TCOLE rules - These full-time officers are exempt from Chapter 1702

If you have any questions, please contact your Field Service Agent.