

## **TRENT ISD GUARDIAN POLICY**

Trent ISD is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students, teachers, and staff. This commitment is reflected in our continuous evaluation of resources, programs, policies, and processes and the many best-practice safety and security initiatives in place across the district.

With approval from Board of Trustees, Trent ISD continues to implement the Guardian Program which began 2019.

Under Texas Penal Code Section 46.03, the Guardian Program grants a school district the authority to authorize certain District employees to carry concealed weapons on school grounds. As a last line of defense, this program adds to the safety and security infrastructure, training, and resource enhancements that have been taking place across the District over the past few years. Visibly, there is signage at school entrances indicating that personnel on campus may be armed. There will be no additional impacts from this implementation on our students, staff, or the day-to-day school routine.

The adoption and continued implementation of the Guardian program was recommended to the Board by the Superintendent. As a result of the many school shootings and school violence in previous years, the Board of Trustees' decision to approve the program resulted from a desire to keep students and teachers safe. Trent ISD joins more than 300 school districts across Texas that are currently a part of the Guardian Program.

Some important information about the Guardian Program is available below:

- Guardian Program participation is strictly voluntary - no employee is required to participate, and the District may revoke an employee's participation at any time.
- Employees who are currently licensed to carry a weapon in the State of Texas are eligible to volunteer and apply to be considered for the program.
- The selection process requires a criminal background screening, as well as physical and psychological evaluations utilizing the same process and standards that law enforcement adheres to.
- Approved applicants for the Guardian Program will be required to complete a rigorous training program. Applicants are also required to complete annual training.
- An authorized District employee or official may take such action that is necessary, in his or her judgment and discretion, to prevent or abate the commission of an offense that threatens serious bodily injury and/or death to a student, District personnel, or a visitor.
- The identity of approved guardians will remain confidential as it is a requirement of the program.

It is important to note, once again, that in the interest of District security and maintaining the integrity of the program, the District will not be releasing the identity or numbers of District employees selected as Guardian program participants.

Revised and approved by the Trent ISD School Board: 10-9-2023