

## **SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE**

### **ISSUANCE OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT CITATIONS**

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**Date: 11-1-18**

#### **Background and Jurisdiction**

Each Officer employed by the Richmond County School System is P.O.S.T. certified and thus has limited arrest powers and authority to issue disorderly conduct citations for violations occurring on Richmond County Board of Education Property, and its surrounding School Safety Zone. Certain arrest powers and authority to issue disorderly conduct citation warrants shall be governed by and conducted pursuant to the terms of the Cooperative Agreement with the Richmond County's Sheriff's Office and applicable State laws, as follows:

Arrest Jurisdiction Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-8-1, et seq. Georgia law provides school security personnel law enforcement arrest powers for offenses committed on the school property or within 500 yards of the property. O.C.G.A. § 20-8-1, et seq. The law enforcement efforts of the Richmond County School System School Safety and Security Department will be generally confined to properties of the Richmond County School System, except as otherwise mentioned herein, or otherwise authorized pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement. The same distance requirements apply to the issuance of disorderly conduct citations.

#### **Disorderly Conduct Citations**

Each Officer is authorized to issue citations for disorderly conduct for any individual(s), including, but not limited to, parents and students on school property or with 500 yards of school property, when the Officer has probable cause to believe that the individual(s) has violated Georgia law or Richmond County Ordinances. Consultation with the administration is not required. The officer shall follow all jurisdictional requirements as well as any procedures contained within the Cooperative Agreement with local law enforcement agencies.

While School System employees may request that disorderly conduct citations be issued, there must be articulated probable cause that a statute or ordinance has been violated before the officer may issue a citation. If the officer does not determine in his or her sole discretion that probable cause exists, no citation shall be issued. No School System employee may direct an officer to issue a disorderly conduct warrant.

#### **Training and Updates**

Before the beginning of each school year, officers employed by the Richmond County School System shall receive training and updates relating to the standards and jurisdiction for making arrests and issuing disorderly conduct citations, including, but not limited to, proper requests for and use of citizen identification documents. Training also shall include best practices for

speaking with and addressing the public. The update shall be provided by school system counsel or other qualified trainers.

### **Notice**

Notice to students, parents and employees that is easily understood will be widely distributed by posting on the School System's website and on the individual websites of each school. The notice will identify the effective date of the new procedures and the location of the procedures on the School System's websites. The procedure shall be placed in the printed version of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, which is distributed annually to each parent and student in the School System. The procedure will be placed in the School Safety & Security Office Standard Operating Procedures Manual.