

6Hx19-1.44 SCHOOL GUARDIAN PROGRAM

The purpose of this District Board of Trustees (DBoT) Policy is to establish a Guardian security program under Florida House Bill 757 (2026), to provide for the safety and security of people and property under the jurisdiction of the Pasco-Hernando State College (“College” or “PHSC”), in accordance with Florida Law.

PHSC will use a layered safety model to provide non-sworn campus safety operations under institutional authority. Guardians provide armed protective capacity under the Guardian Program and do not replace sworn law enforcement.

The Guardian Program may include two categories of PHSC participants: full-time Campus Safety Officers whose primary assigned role is protective coverage, and selected staff/faculty guardians who are approved to participate as a collateral duty. Selection, certification, assignment, and continued participation are privileges based on institutional need, sheriff certification, training, judgment, and approval by the President or designee.

The DBoT authorizes the College to establish and maintain a layered campus safety model that may include sworn law enforcement officers, non-sworn Campus Protection Officers, certified school guardians, contract security personnel, and emergency management personnel. The purpose of this model is to protect students, employees, visitors, property, and College operations while preserving clear distinctions between law enforcement authority, institutional authority, and guardian authority.

Guardians may report behaviors, incidents, or safety concerns to the College's Threat Management Team or Behavioral Intervention Team. Guardians shall not independently conduct behavioral threat assessments unless separately designated and trained to serve in that capacity. Guardian participation in threat management activities shall be limited to reporting, information sharing, protective response, and other duties assigned by the President or designee.

Guardian Program Authorization

The College will participate in, establish, and support a Guardian Program consistent with applicable Florida law, rule, sheriff certification requirements, and College policy. Guardian Program participation may include full-time guardians assigned primarily to protective coverage and selected staff/faculty members authorized to participate as collateral-duty guardians.

Institutional Control

All College Guardian Program participants shall remain subject to College policies, supervisory authority, assignment control, training requirements, disciplinary standards, and removal from the program at the discretion of the President or designee.

No General Law Enforcement Authority

Guardian Program participants are not sworn law enforcement officers by virtue of Guardian Program participation. Guardians shall not conduct criminal investigations, access criminal justice information systems, serve as the sworn law enforcement member of a threat management team, exercise general arrest powers as officers, or represent themselves as police officers unless separately certified and appointed under law.

Staff and Faculty Participation

The College may approve selected staff and faculty members to participate in the Guardian Program when participation supports institutional safety needs and does not create an unreasonable conflict with the employee's primary duties. Participation is voluntary, selective, and subject to approval by the President or designee.

Program Administration

The Chief of Campus Safety and Security, or designee, shall administer College procedures for Guardian Program selection, assignment, training documentation, coordination with the sheriff, incident response, records, and annual review.

Guardian Authority

All Full-Time Campus Safety Guardians will be empowered to act on the College's behalf in the matters of:

1. Access Control and Facility Security

Controlling access to College buildings, classrooms, offices, restricted areas, parking areas, and other College-controlled spaces in accordance with College policy, posted rules, emergency directives, and operational needs.

2. Identification and Visitor Management

Requesting identification from students, employees, visitors, contractors, vendors, and other persons on College property when necessary to verify authorization, support campus safety, or enforce College access procedures.

3. Denial of Entry and Removal from College Property

Denying entry to unauthorized people and directing individuals to leave College property when they are not authorized to be present; are violating College rules, or creating a safety or operational concern. Guardians may assist with removal only when voluntary compliance is obtained and shall

request sworn law enforcement response when a person refuses to leave or the situation becomes criminal, threatening, or unsafe.

4. Administrative Enforcement of College Rules

Enforcing College rules, administrative directives, safety procedures, emergency instructions, building-use restrictions, parking and traffic-control procedures, event rules, and other lawful institutional requirements applicable to College property and operations.

5. Campus Patrol and Protective Presence

Conducting visible patrols, fixed-post assignments, building checks, parking lot checks, exterior security checks, and other protective activities designed to deter unsafe conduct, identify hazards, and support a safe learning and working environment.

6. Emergency Response and Protective Action

Responding to emergencies, alarms, disturbances, suspicious activity, medical incidents, fire alarms, severe weather events, evacuations, shelter-in-place actions, lockdowns, active assailant incidents, and other situations requiring immediate protective action.

7. Active Assailant Prevention and Response

Performing duties authorized under the Guardian Program for the prevention or abatement of an active assailant incident, consistent with applicable Florida law, sheriff certification requirements, College policy, training, and direction from the Chief of Campus Safety and Security or designee.

8. Incident Documentation and Reporting

Documenting safety incidents, rule violations, suspicious activity, security concerns, access-control issues, emergency response actions, hazards, and referrals through the College's approved reporting system.

9. Trespass Review Support

Initiating or supporting a campus trespass review by documenting the facts, identifying involved persons, preserving relevant information, and referring the matter to the Chief of Campus Safety and Security or sworn law enforcement. Guardians cannot independently issue criminal trespass warnings.

10. Scene Security and Evidence Preservation

Securing and preserving incident scenes, limiting unnecessary access, identifying witnesses, protecting potential evidence from disturbance, and maintaining scene integrity until sworn law enforcement or other authorized personnel assume responsibility.

11. Event Security and Crowd Management

Supporting College events through access control, crowd observation, parking and pedestrian direction, emergency response readiness, prohibited-item enforcement where authorized, and coordination with event organizers and sworn law enforcement.

12. Parking and Traffic Support

Assisting with traffic direction, parking control, emergency vehicle access, roadway or lot closures, pedestrian safety, and special-event traffic flow on College property when authorized by College procedure.

13. Emergency Evacuation and Protective Movement

Assisting students, employees, visitors, and persons with access and functional needs during evacuations, relocations, reunification operations, sheltering actions, or other protective movements.

14. Safety Hazard Identification and Corrective Action Referrals

Identifying safety hazards, security vulnerabilities, broken locks, lighting issues, access-control failures, camera concerns, fire/life-safety concerns, and other risks; taking immediate protective steps when appropriate; and referring issues for corrective action.

15. Coordination with Sworn Law Enforcement and First Responders

Supporting sworn law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency medical services, emergency management, and other responders by providing access, information, scene support, crowd control assistance, facility knowledge, and situational awareness.

Rule Initially Adopted: 6/16/26

Revision Dates: 6/16/26

Legal Authority:

General Authority: FS 1001.64; 1001.65; 1006.12; 30.15; 252; 790.

Other References: Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C.

Law Implemented: FS 1001.64; 1001.65; 1006.12; 30.15(1)(k); 810.08; 810.09;
252; 112.0455; 790; 1006.07(7); 1001.212(11)