

## **Self-Defense Spray Policy**

### Purpose

In an effort to continue to provide a safe school environment, the Westfield School Committee authorizes the storage and use of self-defense sprays on School District property in accordance with the terms of this policy and M.G.L. c. 140 §122C. Only non-lethal self-defense sprays purchased by the School District are authorized to be present on School District property. In no circumstances does this policy permit the use or possession of self-defense sprays on School Property by students, parents, or members of the general public.

### Storage

Non-lethal self-defense sprays will be stored in locations on School District property selected by the administrative team in consultation with the school resource officer. Non-lethal self-defense sprays will be stored in a manner identified by the administrative team as being secured and only accessible by permitted staff members. Non-lethal self-defense spray units will be regularly checked on by members of the administrative team or their designee to confirm inventory, proper storage, and compliance with each unit's stated effective date. The administrative team will provide an annual report to the School Committee on the regular review of non-lethal self-defense spray units present on School District property. Only non-lethal self-defense sprays purchased by the School District are authorized to be present on School District property.

### Training

Staff members may volunteer for training on use of non-lethal self-defense sprays placed in School District buildings. The administrative team will select volunteers for training in consultation with the school resource officer. Only those staff members who have been selected for and successfully completed training are authorized to use non-lethal self-defense sprays on School District property. Staff members not trained in effective use of non-lethal self-defense sprays are not authorized to use non-lethal CS gel on School District property. Students are not authorized to use non-lethal CS gel on School District property. Staff members are not entitled to additional compensation for volunteering for training or use of non-lethal self-defense sprays. Training on effective use will be renewed for authorized staff members every 12 months

### Use

Staff members are authorized under this policy to use non-lethal self-defense sprays in a manner consistent with the School District-approved training on effective use of non-lethal self-defense sprays. Effective use will include but is not limited to redirection or incapacitation of an individual or individuals intending to harm School District students or staff. Effective use expressly excludes use to redirect, discipline or otherwise harm students in violation of the School District's corporal punishment policy and Massachusetts law. Confirmed misuse or unauthorized use of non-lethal self-defense sprays by a student, staff member or citizen on School District property will result in School District discipline, loss of use authorization, and/or, if applicable, referral to law enforcement. Unauthorized use of non-lethal self-defense sprays on School District property by a staff member is expressly outside the scope of the staff member's duties under School Committee policy and Massachusetts law.

### Insurance

The administration will confirm that the storage and use of non-lethal self-defense sprays is consistent the School District's workers' compensation and general liability insurance policies on an annual basis.

Legal References: MGL c. 140 §122C  
MGL c.269 §10

First reading: October 21, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup>/final reading and adopted: November 4, 2019