



## FY 2019 Recommended Budget Budget Question

**Board Question #: 68**

**BUDGET QUESTION:** If the School Board were to concur, is it possible now for the Sheriff to deputize “qualified” teacher allowing them to carry concealed weapons in the public or private Spotsylvania schools at this time? Is this something that can only be done by General Assembly action? (The definition of “qualified” would need to be determined to the mutual agreement of all stakeholders.)

**RESPONSE:** Carrying of weapons by teachers is definitely a complex question. Having weapons in schools should be discouraged for many reasons to include “mistaken identity” by responding deputies to school related shooting. There is also concern that an armed school employee “could” over-react to a situation and display a weapon pre-maturely and create a larger event. An additional concern is for weapons safety in an environment where weapons are not customary. For teachers carrying weapons, firearms safety and security could be an issue. A teacher in an unruly situation with one or more students could create a weapon retention concern. At the present time, it is against the Code of Virginia to possess weapons on school property.

(Please note that due to the specialized subject matter of Budget Questions 66, 67, 68 and 69, the questions were referred to the Sheriff’s Office and the answer provided is the unedited response from the Sheriff’s Office.)