I. POLICY:

The Department of Juvenile Justice Georgia Preparatory Academy (DJJ-GPA) will provide youth with an environment that is conducive to learning and student development. Because the Department is a special school district with all of the powers, privileges, and authority of any other school district, all secure facilities and Education Transition Centers (ETCs) are school safety zones.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Bullying: Unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated or has the potential to be repeated over time.

Controlled Substance: A drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of Code Sections 16-13-25 through 16-13-29, Schedules I through V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308, or both, including marijuana.

School Safety Zone: In or on any real property owned by or leased to the Department and used for elementary or secondary education.

Education Transition Center (ETC): A Georgia Preparatory Academy community based school for youth under Department of Juvenile Justice supervision in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice that cannot attend regular school in their communities.

Weapon: Any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts.
connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-11-106(a). This paragraph excludes any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher or sports equipment possessed by competitors for legitimate athletic purposes.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. Weapons:

1. Regardless of whether school is in session, it is unlawful for any person to carry or possess a weapon in or on the property of a DJJ secure facility or within the facility itself.

2. All authorized individuals who carry weapons are required to abide by DJJ 8.34, Firearms. No firearm or ammunition will be allowed beyond the weapons checkpoint unless specifically authorized by the Commissioner in an emergency situation. (See DJJ 8.34, Firearms.)

3. For ETCs, no one except certified School Resource Officers may carry a firearm. School Resource Officers will abide by the firearm provisions in DJJ 20.43, School Resource Officer.

B. Controlled Substances:

1. Regardless of whether school is in session, it is unlawful for any person to manufacture, dispense, possess, or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance or marijuana within 1000 feet of a DJJ secure facility or within the facility itself.

2. Employees who have a need for a prescribed controlled substance during their scheduled workday must have the permission of the facility Director to bring the medication into the facility. The medication must be in a container labeled clearly with the employee’s name, name of the medication, and dosage instructions that indicate the medication must be taken during the scheduled workday. The staff member must ensure the security of the medication and immediately report theft or loss. Only the amount of medication needed during the employee’s scheduled workday may be brought into the facility.

C. Whether school is in session or not, no person will manufacture, dispense, or possess alcohol on DJJ property.

D. DJJ secure facilities and ETCs will display a sign indicating that the area is a school safety zone.
E. Penalties established by statute (fine and/or imprisonment) are in addition to any action the Department of Juvenile Justice may take.

F. Students or persons who have control or charge of a student will report acts of bullying either anonymously or in person to facility personnel. All reports of bullying must be documented on a Special Incident Report in accordance with DJJ 8.5, Special Incident Reporting. During the intake orientation, students will be encouraged to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity that may occur during their stay.

G. All students entering a DJJ-GPA school will complete the Bullying Prevention Program which includes a bullying prevention quiz. The Bullying Prevention Program must be completed annually.

**IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO**