

# Campus Carry

Voted on July 30, 2022

## A Message from the President of the Stark College and Seminary

On June 1, 2015, Gov. Greg Abbott signed S.B. 11, also known as the “campus carry” law. S.B. 11 provides that license holders may carry a concealed handgun in designated spaces on public college and university campuses starting Aug. 1, 2016. The law, also gives the governors of private institutions the discretion to regulate campus carry policy. S.B. 11, therefore, encourages that only after consulting with students, faculty and staff regarding “the nature of the student population, specific safety considerations, and the uniqueness of the campus environment,” the board of a private institution may establish policies prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns by licensed holders on campus. Regardless of board policy, the new law does NOT allow open carry on public or private colleges and universities. Therefore, S.B. 11 deals only with the concealed carry of handguns by people who have a concealed carry license. It is now, and will still be, illegal to display a firearm in campus buildings as well as on campus streets, sidewalks, and walkways. Recap: S.B. 11 authorizes concealed campus carry only by license holders to carry a concealed handgun unless the board adopts policy otherwise.

Stark College and Seminary takes your safety very seriously and desires to create policies that conform to the new law, protect the rights of citizens, and ensure the safety and security of the entire campus. As such, the administration has worked to hear from students, faculty, and staff regarding the new law. To that end, I spoke to every member of the faculty during the month of March. All Students were emailed a link to an online survey. Finally, the SCS staff met together to discuss the law and register their opinions too.

**The board of trustees exercised its state legislated right to opt-out of Senate Bill 11 and designated all SCS buildings closed to private citizens concealing weapons on April 7, 2016 and re-affirmed on November 7, 2019.**