

# School officer sexually assaulted blindfolded girl: cops

By [Joshua Rhett Miller](#)

A security officer at a Florida elementary school has been arrested after sexually assaulting a 6-year-old girl while she was blindfolded, police said.

Malcolm Curtis Tillman, 22, of Tampa, was arrested Wednesday after forensic evidence backed up an allegation the girl reported to authorities earlier this month, claiming that Tillman victimized her while inside a “game room” at Booker T. Washington Elementary School, [the Tampa Bay Times reports](#).

The girl told authorities that Tillman pulled her out of class on Jan. 10 before instructing her to sit on a chair with her hands behind her back, according to an arrest warrant and search warrant affidavit obtained by the newspaper.

“He told [her] he was going to take care of [her] and it was going to be okay,” the affidavit reads.

Tillman then covered the girl’s eyes and nose with a black jacket before telling her not to be scared. He then sexually battered the girl, according to the documents.

The girl told police she saw that Tillman’s pants had been unbuttoned when she removed the jacket, prompting the security officer to tell her “they were all good,” the affidavit states.

District officials then contacted Tampa police after the girl reported the

incident later that day, the Tampa Bay Times reports. She then led investigators to the room where the assault allegedly occurred and the black fleece jacket was still there.

Tillman, meanwhile, denied assaulting the girl but acknowledged being alone with her in the room. He took her to the location because he thought she was a victim of child neglect and “wanted to determine how safe she was at home,” an arrest report states.

Tillman was later arrested after semen was found on two sections of the jacket. He was then fired from his position once district officials learned of his arrest, a spokeswoman told the newspaper.

“I am disgusted and shocked by this arrest,” Principal Jaime Gerding told parents in a message about Tillman’s arrest. “We trusted him to protect our students and staff and he broke that trust.”

Tillman — an imposing figure at 6 feet tall and 240 pounds — remained held on \$250,000 bond Friday at the Hillsborough County Jail, records show.

Tillman was still on a probationary period when he was arrested earlier this month. He was among roughly 120 school officers hired or rehired by the district since last summer to comply with a state law requiring security staffers at every elementary school, the Tampa Bay Times reports.

Tillman, who had earned \$27,000, passed a criminal background check and a psychological evaluation, according to a district spokeswoman.

“This case is particularly troubling because you have someone in a position of authority and that’s a very young child,” Tampa police spokesman Steve Hagerty [told WFLA](#). “So we’re happy to make the case as quickly as we did.”