

## **OFFICER PRESENCE IN THE SCHOOLS**

### **Philosophy**

RSU23 School Board wants to assure the safe environment of our schools. A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a group of schools. The SRO is specifically trained to perform three roles: a law enforcement officer; law-related counselor; and law-related education teacher. The SRO will provide a visible and positive image for law enforcement and bring expertise into schools that will help young people make more positive choices in their lives. The SRO also works to protect the school environment and to maintain an atmosphere where teachers feel safe to teach and students feel safe to learn.

### **Role of the School Resource Officer (SRO)**

The School Resource Officer will work in collaboration with schools and community-based organizations to: Provide law enforcement and police services to the schools, school grounds, and areas adjacent to the schools.

1. Promote contact and positive relationships with students, developed through interactions in classrooms and general areas of the buildings, and remaining visible and accessible to students.
2. Develop crime prevention programs and conduct security inspections to insure school safety.
3. Establish and maintain a close partnership with school administrators to ensure a safe school environment and to assist them in enforcing school board policies and procedures.
4. Assist in emergency crisis planning and building security matters.
5. Assist in the development and implementation of classes in law related education to support the educational efforts of the faculty.
6. Work with guidance counselors and other student support staff to assist students and provide services to students involved in situations where referrals to service agencies are necessary.
7. Assist in conflict resolution efforts.
8. Assist other officers or agencies as needed.
9. Provide consultation and support to students, families and faculty members related to law enforcement or crime prevention.

The SRO will also provide classroom instruction on issues related to law enforcement, be a resource to teachers and administrators in planning educational programs, be an advisor/mentor to students and their families, and be a liaison between the schools and the Police Department.

The SRO shall not act as a school disciplinarian. School administrators have primary responsibility for school discipline; however, if a school administrator believes an incident is a violation of the law, the administrator may call upon the SRO to provide assistance, and the SRO shall then determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate. School administrators shall not act as an arm of law enforcement. In addition to his/her sworn responsibilities as a law enforcement officer, the SRO will abide by all School Board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities daily through the school principal or his/her designee. In the event of any discrepancy between School Board policies and Police Department policies or orders, the SRO shall follow Police Department policy or orders. The School Resource Officer is designated as a “law enforcement unit,” and is considered a school official with a legitimate educational interest in reviewing educational records in order to perform his/her professional responsibilities. The SRO shall keep names of students and action taken by school administration in the strictest of confidence.

Cross Reference:

KLG Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

KLG-R Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities Administrative Procedure

EBCA Crisis Response Plan JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety

~~JHH Questioning and Searches of Students~~

JKAA Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

JRA Student Records

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_