

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RULES

Subject: 44.2.4 School Resource Officer	Effective Date: July 7, 2010
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I. Purpose

The Fayetteville Police Department, working together with the Fayetteville Public Schools, will establish and operate a school-based policing program with the general purpose of reducing the incidence and severity of juvenile crime and delinquency, and protecting students, faculty and staff on school property.

Placing officers within the schools as a police-school liaison is an effective way to detect early tendencies toward delinquency and provide a positive influence among young people. This preventative philosophy will involve a continuous and broad range of contact between the School Resource Officer (SRO) and youth in an educational environment. [Calea 44.2.4]

II. Policy

A. Program Management

1. Organizationally, the SRO Division is located with the Community Oriented Policing Division and its supervisor. A cooperative agreement between the Fayetteville Public School District will be established to provide for placement of a full-time officer(s) within a designated public school.
2. School Resource Officers are police officers first, employed by this department and are responsible for carrying out all duties and responsibilities as a police officer.
3. Although a School Resource Officer may participate in school activities involving counseling and education, they are not school disciplinarians and will not assume this role.
4. School Resource Officers will not involve themselves or the department in administrative personnel matters of the Fayetteville Public School that are not criminal offenses.
5. School Resource Officers report directly to the sergeant of the Community Oriented Policing Division concerning all matters related to the SRO Division.
6. On days that are considered off-days for the school and normal workdays for the department, the School Resource Officer will report to his/her immediate supervisor.
7. School Resource Officers will follow department policies and procedures as police officers.
8. School Resource Officers will be assigned to patrol duties or other assignments as determined by the Chief of Police during school breaks.

B. Selection

1. When a position becomes open in the SRO Program, requests for the assignment will be posted. Officers seeking the assignment must obtain a referral memorandum from his/her supervisor. The selection process will include an oral interview and may include a review of the officer's performance evaluation or supervisory assessment.
2. Officers selected for assignment to the SRO Program will be specially trained in areas of juvenile law and crime prevention, community policing, education and counseling.

C. Responsibilities – Responsibilities for the School Resource Officer will include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Enforce the law and assist as needed in school disciplinary matters;
2. Take appropriate investigative action in instances when laws are violated;
3. Coordinate enforcement activities with the Principal and staff;
4. Present law enforcement related education curriculum to students;
5. Make himself/herself available for conferences with students, parents and faculty to assist with law enforcement or crime prevention problems;
6. Be familiar with all community agencies that provide health and social services;
7. Act as a resource person to students, families and faculty making referrals to school officials when appropriate;
8. Serve as a liaison with the police department regarding community affairs that may affect the school environment;
9. Serve as the school-based contact for students who are on probation through the court system;
10. Take actions against intruders who appear at school and related functions;
11. Give assistance to other police officers in matters regarding his/her assignment;
12. Consult with the Principal to request additional police assistance or private security when necessary;
13. Assist in enforcing school rules, including monitoring student movements in the halls, checking student passes, parking permits, etc.;
14. Attend faculty, parent and community meetings to solicit support for an understanding of the SRO Program;
15. Participate in the development of plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations on school property;
16. Conduct formal interviews with students while adhering to police and school interview policies;
17. Attend after-hour school functions in a law enforcement and/or liaison capacity, and;
18. Perform other duties appropriate to his/her role as the School Resource Officer.

D. SRO Operations - The SRO Program operating goals are adapted from the National Association of School Resource Officers. The School Resource Officer is not only a law enforcement officer but also a teacher and counselor. As such, the following operations may be achieved through classroom instruction, private consultation or law enforcement action:

1. Encourage friendly contact between the police, children and youth in the school environment.
2. Provide support and assistance to students experiencing stress and crises at school.
3. Provide education on law enforcement and the criminal justice system.
4. Protect children from crime or other harmful influences while at school.