

## **Community Relations**

### **School Resource Officer**

#### **Purpose, Mission, and Role**

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a commissioned law enforcement officer in the state of Washington and assigned by the employing police department or sheriff's office to work in schools.

The mission of the Snohomish School District SRO program is to improve school safety and the educational climate at the school. The role of the SRO on campus is an educator, informal counselor, and law enforcer. A trained SRO knows when to informally interact with students to reinforce school rules and when to enforce the law. The focus of any SRO working in the district is to keep students out of the criminal justice system when possible. The District will integrate the SRO into the school community through participation in faculty and student meetings and assemblies as appropriate. SROs will support a positive school climate by developing positive relationships with students, parents, and staff, and by helping to promote a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment. The SRO is a valuable team member of School Based Threat Assessment Teams, which are intended to be preventative. The SRO is encouraged to participate consistent with Policy and Procedure 3225 and 3225P – School Based Threat Assessment.

The primary responsibility for maintaining proper order and conduct in the schools resides with school principals or other school administrators, with the support of other school staff. This may include minor violations of the law occurring during school hours or at school activities. The SRO program does not diminish the district's authority and will not be used to attempt to impose criminal sanctions in matters that are more appropriately handled within the district. Principals or other school administrators are responsible for handling all student discipline matters consistent with Student Discipline Policy 3241 and Procedure 3241P. SROs may interact with students informally to reinforce school rules but are prohibited from being involved in formal school discipline situations that are the responsibility of school administrators.

Teachers and school administrators may ask an SRO to intervene if a student's presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to others or an immediate and continuing threat of material and substantial disruption of the educational process or in other emergency circumstances consistent with Policy 3432 and Procedure 3432P – Emergencies. SROs do not need to be asked before intervening in emergencies.

As a general rule, law enforcement activity should take place at a location other than school premises. However, there are circumstances where formal law enforcement intervention/activity at school is warranted and may be conducted by an SRO. These law enforcement activities may include interviews and interrogations consistent with Policy 3226 – Interview and Interrogations of Students on School Premises; search of a student's person, possessions, or locker consistent with Policy 3230 and Procedure 3230P – Student Privacy and Searches of Students and Personal Property; and citations, filing of delinquency petitions, referrals to a probation officer, arrests, and other referrals to the juvenile justice system, consistent with the law.

The SRO duties do not extend to immigration enforcement. The SRO may not: (1) inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth or (2) provide information pursuant to notification requests from federal immigration authorities for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by law.

### **Agreement, Training, and Program Review**

The district will annually review an agreement with the local law enforcement agency and using a process that involves parents, students and community members. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for training their employees, including SROs. The law enforcement agency will confirm in the agreement that SROs have been trained in all the topics required by law. Additionally, the agreement will include: (1) a clear statement regarding SRO duties and responsibilities related to student behavior and discipline; (2) district policy for teachers that clarifies the circumstances under which teachers and school administrators may ask an SRO to intervene with a student; (3) a process for families to file complaints with the district and law enforcement agency related to the SROs assigned to the district and a process for investigating and responding to complaints; and (4) annual collection and reporting of data of community and school interactions, as well as regarding calls for law enforcement service and the outcome of each call, including student arrest and referral for prosecution, disaggregated by school, offense type, race, gender, age, and students with IEPs or 504 Plans. In addition, the agreement will also incorporate the SRO's duties and the limitations thereof consistent with this policy, other related governing policies, and the governing regulations.

Cross References:	Policy 2121	Substance Abuse Program
	Policy 2145	Suicide Prevention
	Policy 2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	Policy 2162	Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
	Policy 3143	District Notification of Juvenile Offenders
	Policy 3144	Release of Information Concerning Student Sexual and Kidnapping Offenders
	Policy 3225	School-Based Threat Assessment
	Policy 3226	Interviews and Interrogations of Students on School Premises
	Policy 3230	Student Privacy and Searches
	Policy 3421	Child Abuse and Neglect
	Policy 3432	Emergencies
	Policy 3241	Student Discipline
	Policy 3246	Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force
	Policy 4210	Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
	Policy 4310	District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other Government Agencies
	Policy 4314	Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm

Legal References:	RCW 10.93.160	Immigration and Citizenship Status – Law enforcement agency restrictions
	RCW 26.44.030	Interviews of Children
	RCW 26.44.050	Abuse or neglect of a child-Duty of law enforcement agency or department of social and health services – Taking child into custody without court order
	RCW 26.44.110	Information about rights – Custody without court order – Written statement required – Contents
	RCW 26.44.115	Child taken into custody under court order – information to parents
	RCW 28A.300.640	School based threat assessment program
	RCW 28A.300.645	Monitoring and data collection – Comprehensive safe school plans, student distress, and school-based threat assessment programs
	RCW 28A.320.124	School resource officer program
	20 U.S.C. 1232g	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

Classification: Essential

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