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## School Resource Officers

### 1322.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

### 1322.2 POLICY

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is committed to enhancing the safety of students and faculty on public educational campuses located in Montgomery County by forming a partnership with school administrators, faculty members and students. School Resource Officers are employees of the Sheriff's Office.

### 1322.3 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The Sheriff shall assign in consultation with the Public School Superintendent or the President of the Community College at least one SRO to serve at public High Schools, Middle Schools and Community College. The Sheriff shall enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the school's leadership concerning the deployment and responsibilities of SRO's. The performance of SRO's shall be reviewed annually by the school's leadership and the Field Services Director.

The goals and objectives of the SRO program partnership include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Creating a safe learning environment while also creating respect for law and order in the public school system and minimizing criminal activity.
- (b) Identifying students at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system and guiding them toward more positive and socially acceptable ways to behave by partnering with school guidance counselors.
- (c) Reducing criminal activity on or near a school campus.
- (d) Enhancing communication and understanding between students, their families, school staff and the Sheriff's Office.
- (e) Assisting with the coordination of security measures for school activities such as sports events, dances and other large gatherings.
- (f) Reviewing security measures throughout the school and make recommendations to the Principal or President to enhance safety and reduce risk.

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### **1322.4 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DUTIES**

The School Resource Officers duties and responsibilities include:

- (a) Respond to calls, conduct preliminary investigations of criminal offenses that occur on school campus or related to school group activities off campus. To take enforcement action upon evidence of clear cut and substantial violations of law.
- (b) Conducting follow-up investigations of offenses that occur on student-occupied property during school hours.
- (c) Assisting the Criminal Investigation Division with follow-up investigations that originate on student-occupied property or involve a student.
- (d) Providing education for students, faculty and administrators as requested and when available regarding law enforcement functions.
- (e) Assisting faculty and administrators in establishing policies that contribute to the safety of school staff and students.
- (f) Participating in student conferences, as requested and appropriate.
- (g) Providing youth gang task force intelligence as appropriate.
- (h) SROs may provide traffic control at schools when deemed necessary for the safety and protection of students and the general public when the regular traffic control officer or crossing guard is absent.

### **1322.5 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS**

Members assigned as SROs shall be selected using criteria that includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) The ability of the Deputy Sheriff to foster an optimal learning environment and educational community.
- (b) Whether the candidate has specialized training in:
  - 1. Child and adolescent development.
  - 2. De-escalation and conflict resolution techniques with children and adolescents.
  - 3. Behavioral health disorders in children and adolescents.
  - 4. Alternatives to arrest and other juvenile justice diversion strategies.
  - 5. Behavioral threat assessment methods.

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#### **1322.6 TRANSPORTING STUDENTS**

School Resource Officers shall not transport students except:

- (a) When the student is a victim of a crime, under arrest or some other emergency circumstances exist.
- (b) When a student is suspended and sent home from school pursuant to school disciplinary actions, and the student does not have personal transportation and the student's parent or guardian has refused or is unable to pick-up the child within a reasonable time period and the student is disorderly and their continued presence on campus is a threat to the safety and welfare of the other students or school personnel.
- (c) If circumstances require the SRO to transport a student, then school officials must also provide a school official or employee of the same gender as the student to be transported to accompany the SRO.
- (d) If the student being transported off campus is not under arrest, a victim of a crime or violent or disruptive, school administration shall provide transportation for the student and an SRO may accompany the school official in transporting the student.
- (e) A student shall not be transported to any location unless it is determined the student's parent, guardian or custodian is at the destination to which the student is being transported. SROs shall not transport students in the SRO's personal vehicles.
- (f) The SRO shall notify the school's leadership before removing a student from campus.

#### **1322.7 TRAINING**

The Sheriff's Office will provide Deputy Sheriffs appointed as SROs appropriate training for the assignment.