

DULUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

Duluth Police Department Mission:

To provide a safe Duluth for all by strengthening relationships and serving in a respectful, caring, and selfless manner.

Values:

Fair

Accountable

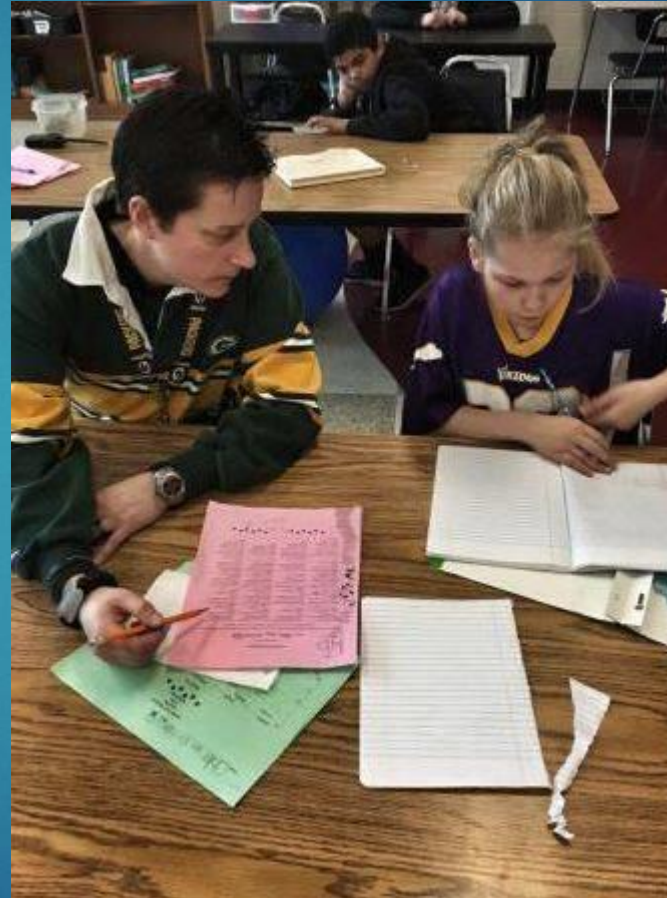
Caring

Transparent



SRO INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ INTERVENTION
- ▶ MENTORING
- ▶ TEACHING
- ▶ COACHING
- ▶ ROLE MODELING



ROLE OF THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO'S)

- ▶ The Police Department maintains school resource officers to reduce delinquency and crime in the community; to help develop a better understanding of laws and law enforcement among young people, and to develop and maintain a cooperative relationship with the Duluth School District.
- ▶ School Resource Officers (SRO) are assigned to high schools and middle schools. Their responsibility's include, but are not limited to: conducting criminal investigations regarding school aged juveniles, act as a liaison and resource for educators, parents, and students, mentor students, teach classes, and develop relationships with youth. Due to their high level of involvement with the students the Department relies on their judgment and grants them great leeway in how they deal with juveniles regarding enforcement.

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO'S)

- ▶ More importantly the SRO's are an extension of the Community policing concept.
 - ▶ School and community are not exclusive of each other.
 - ▶ Events that happen outside of school can affect things in the school and vice versa
 - ▶ Allows opportunity to develop relations with youth that extend outside of the school-builds trust*
 - ▶ Provides resource for school staff and parents when dealing with adolescent related issues
 - ▶ Informal counselor
 - ▶ Teacher
 - ▶ Develop alternative solutions for criminal behavior other than the CJS
 - ▶ Work with educators and parents to support student success
 - ▶ Identify and educate on emerging social trends that affect student safety

What SRO's don't do.

- ▶ They don't enforce school rules
- ▶ They don't enact school discipline
- ▶ They are not there as hall monitors or only for emergencies



COORDINATION WITH DULUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ▶ SRO's provide the district with continuity and a known person to go to for help, as well as providing the police with POC's in the district. Alleviates trying to figure out who to contact.
- ▶ SRO's provide the police department with a resource on juvenile related topics.

DARE PROGRAM

Mission: Minnesota D.A.R.E., Inc. is the governing body of the D.A.R.E. program in Minnesota. Its purpose is to educate and advocate for the safety and well-being of our Minnesota children through collaboration with law enforcement officers, parents, schools, and community.

Vision Statement: To provide Minnesota children with the decision making skills, they require to be healthy and safe, through the leading educational advocacy program in the state.

- ▶ Minnesota D.A.R.E., Inc. is a non-profit, children's organization; governed by community leaders working with law enforcement/community policing as the vehicle.
- ▶ The Minnesota D.A.R.E. program instructs approximately 60,000 - 70,000 students, annually.
- ▶ D.A.R.E. is a health and safety program; not just drug prevention.

DARE PROGRAM cont'd

- ▶ Although the program addresses national trends, it is adaptable to the needs of communities addressing local issues. Each lesson is designed to achieve specific objectives. Officers, however, are provided sufficient latitude to incorporate local issues of relevance.
- ▶ The curriculum is designed to help students assess the risks associated with substance abuse and other health and safety issues, enhance decision making and resistance strategies, improve antidrug normative beliefs and attitudes, and reduce risky behaviors. The narrative and performance-based curriculum draws from communication competence theory and a culturally grounded resiliency model to incorporate traditional ethnic values and practices that protect against substance use.

DARE PROGRAM cont'd

- ▶ D.A.R.E. is community policing or community-oriented policing program
- ▶ For community policing to work; there must be a trust and confidence building initiative. It improves public safety by eliciting the input of stakeholders and responds to a neighborhood's unique cultural and socio-economic dynamics; it is community-centered and human-centered programming.
- ▶ The DARE program integrates police, schools, parents, and communities. One of these groups alone is unlikely to succeed in directing a child's behavior. DARE officers can reinforce the positive efforts of parents and schools. DARE is a partnership.
- ▶ DARE permits students to see police officers in a helping role.

DARE PROGRAM cont'd

- ▶ DARE serves as a source of feedback to departments to better communicate the fears and concerns of youth.
- ▶ DARE can serve as a stimulus for youth to become involved in other police activities (Explorers, PALS, etc.)
- ▶ DARE opens the lines of communication with the schools and districts
- ▶ DARE officers learn from their exposure to and experience with students and their families.