



Canutillo ISD Police Department

Reserve Officer Program

Supporting School Safety Through Reserve Police Officers

Purpose: Texas law now allows school districts to utilize reserve police officers to strengthen school security and emergency response capabilities.

- This provides districts with an additional tool to improve safety, increase officer availability, and support compliance with state school security requirements.



What Are School District Reserve Officers?

1. Authorized Under the Texas Education Code 37.0816

A. Reserve Officers

- Are appointed by the School District Police Chief
- Must hold a Texas Peace Officer License
- Serve at the discretion of the Chief of Police
- Can be activated when additional law enforcement presence is needed
- May be authorized to exercise peace officer authority while serving the district

Key Point: Reserve officers expand a district's safety resources without requiring the same staffing commitments as full-time officers



Benefits to the School District

1. Improved Safety and Security
 - Increased officer presence on campuses
 - Additional staffing during emergencies
 - Enhanced coverage for special events, athletic contest, graduations, and large gatherings (CHS Parade)
 - Greater flexibility during staffing shortages
 - Faster response capability during critical incidents
 - Supports compliance with Texas school safety expectations

Many Texas districts continue to face challenges recruiting and retaining law enforcement personnel. Reserve officers can help bridge staffing gaps while measuring a visible security presence.



Financial Advantages

Cost Effective Security Enhancement

- Ability to utilize retired officers and experienced law enforcement professionals
- Increased staffing without budget expansion
- Able to hire from within when position available

Potential Use: School events, emergency operations, campus patrol support.

Texas districts are under pressure to provide armed security on campuses while managing



Bond Requirements for Each Officer

BOND REQUIREMENT

- As a condition of appointment and continued service, each Reserve Peace Officer shall obtain and maintain a surety bond in an amount determined by the Chief of Police and approved by the Superintendent. The bond shall be issued by a company authorized to conduct business within the State of Texas and shall remain in effect throughout the officer's appointment.

Responsibility for Cost

- Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the District, all costs associated with obtaining, maintaining, renewing, or replacing the required bond shall be the sole responsibility of the Reserve Officer.
- Proof of bond coverage shall be provided to the Department prior to appointment, activation, or reactivation.



Recommendation

Consider Authorizing a Reserve Officer Program

Benefits Include:

- Stronger campus security
- Expanded emergency response capability
- Greater staffing flexibility
- Cost-effective use of district resources
- Support for student, staff, and visitor safety

Proposed Action: Authorize the School District Police Chief to develop a Reserve Police Officer Program under Texas Education Code 37.0816 and present implementation guidelines to the Board for approval.

