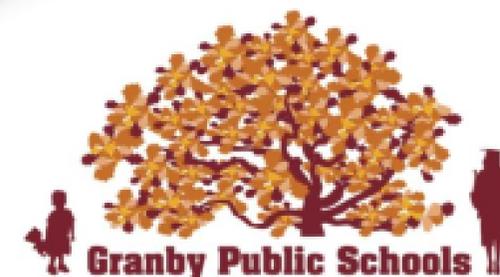
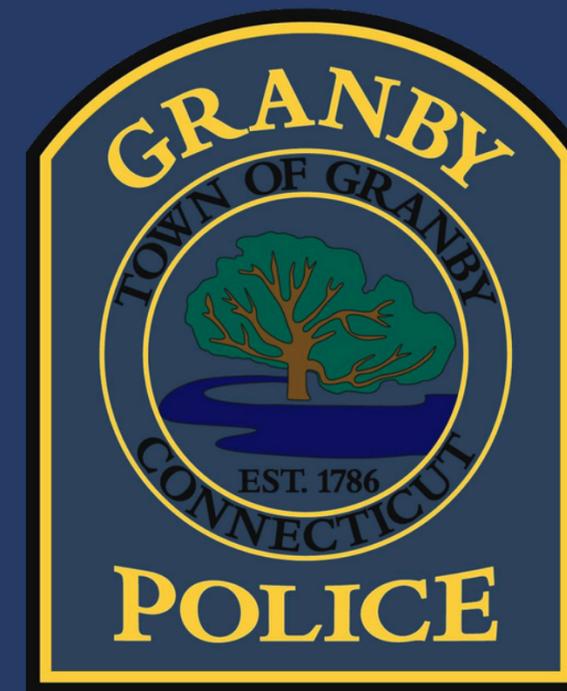


School Resource Officer Program

Proposal to the Granby Board of Education
Wednesday, December 4, 2024



What is a School Resource Officer?



LAW ENFORCER

Promotes safety in or around the school by addressing crime and fear of crime

Serves as a liaison between the school and outside agencies

MENTOR

Builds relationships

Reinforces positive behaviors

Connects youth with needed services

EDUCATOR

Teaches topics related to law enforcement geared toward positive student behavior

Collaborates with stakeholder groups

EMERGENCY MANAGER

Develops and implements comprehensive safety plans or strategies, in coordination with school administrators and local first responders



Why does Granby need a School Resource Officer (SRO)?

The Granby Police Department and Granby Public Schools aim to:

- Create and maintain a safe school environment
- Establish a cooperative relationship between students and police
- Prevent juvenile delinquency
- Promote positive interactions between students and police officers

What does the data say?

Across the State of Connecticut, 113 out of 169 districts currently have School Resource Officers in place.

An additional 9 districts have security guards (some are armed retired officers, others are not armed).

Currently, Granby Police Officers are called to our schools an average of 2-3 times per week. Calls range from a bear on campus, drug use, medical needs, social media concerns, threats of harm, and student aggression.

Duties of the SRO

- Provide educational presentations on law enforcement, safety, and other related topics
- Take law enforcement action when necessary
- Conduct investigations into any crimes occurring on school property
- Develop strategies for preventing and managing safety risks
- Submit regular reports to Chief of Police & Superintendent, ensuring transparency and accountability





A School Resource Officer is:

- Carefully selected to fit the role
- Specifically trained to work in an educational environment including:
 - digital safety
 - human trafficking
 - mental health
 - substance abuse
 - de-escalation practices
 - behavioral threat assessment
 - emergency operations planning
 - armed assailant response
- Collaborator with school administrators and teachers
- A resource for students and parents

A School Resource Officer IS NOT:

- Responsible for school discipline
- Enforcing school rules/policy
- Leading searches of students, lockers, backpacks, etc.
- Investigating cases of bullying
- An employee of the School District

The vast majority of student misconduct can be best addressed through classroom and in-school strategies.

The response to school disruptions should be reasonable, consistent and fair.

Students should be held accountable for their actions through a graduated response to misconduct*.

Disruptive students should receive appropriate redirection and support from in-school and community resources prior to the consideration of suspension, expulsion, involvement of the police, or referral to court.

The Positive Impact K-12



Elementary:

- Bike Safety
- Stranger Danger
- Read Alouds
- Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE



MENTOR



Secondary:

- Careers in Law Enforcement
- Digital Citizenship
- Forensics and Crime Scene
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness

Additional Information:

Q: How will we fund this position?

A: The salary of the SRO will be a new initiative in the Superintendent's Proposed Plus One Budget

Q: How will the officer be selected?

A: The Superintendent and the Chief of Police will work together to identify the right person for the position. The officer will need to engage in SRO-specific training.

Essential qualities for the Granby SRO are:

- **Effective communication**
- **Understanding of youth mental health and developmental needs**
- **High moral conduct and commitment to ethical and legal responsibilities**
- **Knowledge of school safety protocols and emergency preparedness**

Additional Information:

Q: Will the SRO be visible in all of the schools?

A: Yes, the SRO will primarily be stationed at the secondary campus and will have a rotating schedule to visit all four schools.

Q: How will the effectiveness of the program be evaluated?

A: Data will be collected, shared, monitored, and reported. A School/Police Collaboration Team, composed of at least two members from each party, will meet to provide oversight of the MOU and review relevant data and analysis. At least annually, the Team will prepare a report of activities and make recommendations for improvements to the agreement and/or its implementation. This will be shared with the Granby BOE.



Questions

Trusting relationships in school are the most effective means of ensuring school safety.