

# School Resource Officer Update

July 7, 2020

# Overview

## **School Resource Officer (SRO) Mission Statement:**

School Resource Officers shall work with students, parents and school staff to promote positive relationships, to promote positive choices and activities and to establish rapport and encourage open communications. SRO's shall ensure a safe and secure educational environment for all faculty and students in the Duluth Public Schools.

# Overview of Program

## **Roles of SROs within our schools:**

1. Role Model
2. Mentor
3. Community Liaison
4. Law Related Educator
5. Law Enforcement Officer

## Additional Resources:

[School Resource Officer Manual](#)

[Department of Justice School Resource Officer Manual](#)

# Relationships and Community Building

School Resource Officers connect with students, families and community members in many ways beyond the defined role. Examples include:

- SRO playing floor hockey with kids at Lincoln Park Middle School
- SRO coach for athletic programs at Lincoln Park Middle School
- SRO helping a Denfeld neighbor by covering graffiti caused by students using his own paint and doing it on his own time
- SRO winning a Denfeld student fund raising effort this spring to support a local charity and participating in the Polar Plunge as a result

# How Duluth's School Resource Officer Program Is Different

Some districts have considered changes in SRO programming. In Duluth, we have already incorporated many positive changes in our programming that reflect best practices:

**Community policing components include:**

- Community partnerships
- Problem solving approaches

The SRO Program is a strategy used as a part of community policing:

*"The School is the Community and the Community is the School."*

# 2019 Minnesota Student Survey

The MSS is the most consistent source of data about the health and well-being of Minnesota's students for the past 30 years.

Students are asked about their activities, opinions, behaviors and experiences.

Students respond to questions on school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, health, nutrition, emotional and mental health, relationships, substance use and more.

# I think it is a good idea to have an SRO or police officer at our school.

Denfeld H.S.	Gr. 9 M	Gr. 9 F	Gr. 11 M	Gr. 11 F
Agree/Strongly Agree	97%	99%	97%	84%
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	2%	1%	2%	16%

Duluth East H.S.	Gr. 9 M	Gr. 9 F	Gr. 11 M	Gr. 11 F
Agree/Strongly Agree	91%	94%	92%	97%
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	8%	6%	7%	3%

# I think it is a good idea to have an SRO or police officer at our school.

Lincoln Park M.S.	Gr. 8 M	Gr. 8 F
Agree/Strongly Agree	92%	95%
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	8%	5%

Ordean East M.S.	Gr. 8 M	Gr. 8 F
Agree/Strongly Agree	96%	95%
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	4%	5%



# Contractual Considerations

## **2019-2020 Contract Cost: \$251,906.79**

Includes 4 resource officers for Middle & High Schools  
During Covid-19 Closure we have a carryover credit of approximately \$84,000 to apply to a future contract.

## **Funding Source: Safe Schools Revenue**

This revenue is reserved for safety and security in our schools and on school grounds.

# Next Steps

Continue to focus on professional learning around culturally responsive practices, trauma, and community policing within SRO programming

Review Policies and Procedures for School Interaction with Law Enforcement

Review contract, consider impacts of closure - \$85,000 credit returned to the district towards 2020-21 contract

## **Continue the conversation:**

- SRO student forums on programming and discussion on community and culturally responsive policing
- Greater input from student executive board member, families, and staff. We would use WIN time and class meetings for this purpose
- Consider an additional student survey
- Provide the Board with a mid-year update