



DATE: July 14, 2025

TITLE: School Resource Officers Contract Renewal 2025-2026

TYPE: Action

PRESENTER: Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance and Operations

BACKGROUND:

School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn, licensed career peace officers with arrest powers who work full- or part-time in Minnesota public schools. SROs are also sometimes called School Liaison Officers. SROs are employed by municipal police departments, and a district may contract with one or more law enforcement agencies to provide SROs to work in the schools in the district. Most SROs carry a firearm, badge, cell phone, and handcuffs and about half dress in full uniform.

SROs must comply with the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board requirements in rule for all licensed peace officers (Minn. Rules 6700.0700); there are no additional statutory or administrative requirements for training or certification specific to SROs.

RATIONALE:

The district has a long history of contracting with the City of Austin for 2 SROs. One is housed at Austin High School and the other is housed at Ellis Middle School. Both SROs serve the entire district with various tasks and responsibilities throughout the school year.

The proposed contract renewal for 2025-2026 remains consistent with prior years where the district pays 80% and 90%, respectively, of each SRO's salary and benefits.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the School Board approve the 2025-2026 School Resource Officer contract with the City of Austin.