

**Interlocal Agreement with
City of Denton and Denton ISD Regarding Texas Education Code
Section 37.0814 - Armed Security Officer (SSO) TCOLE Training**
August 27, 2024

SUMMARY:

-This item requests approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Denton, Texas and the Denton Independent School District regarding Texas Education Code Section 37.0814 - Armed Security Officer Required (SSO) whereas City of Denton shall provide Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) mandated training to DISD Officers (SSOs) at the DPD Training Center or other designated location. DPD shall notify DISD when TCOLE mandated training is required and the deadline for that training to be completed. DPD shall provide TCOLE certified instructors for all TCOLE mandated training.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

-This new MOU is intended to assist the Parties with performing district and governmental functions. Nothing in this MOU should be construed as limiting or impeding the basic spirit of cooperation which exists between the contracting entities in already approved MOU with City of Denton and Denton ISD. The renewal of the ongoing partnership between the City of Denton and Denton ISD for SRO Services was passed at the July 30, 2024 Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

-In 2023, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 3 which was signed into law by the Governor on June 14, 2023 and became effective on September 1, 2023. HB 3 is an Act relating to measure for ensuring public safety, including the development and implementation of purchase relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources. HB 3 amended Chapter 37 Sub-chapter C, Texas Education Code, by adding Sections (a-1), (a-2), (a-3) and (a-4) to Section 37.081 and adding Section 37.0814.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

Pursuant to the July 2023 MOU, SROs, first and foremost, are Law Enforcement Officers regarding criminal matters only. SROs are responsible for carrying out all duties and responsibilities of a police officer and remain under the exclusive control of the DPD chain of command. The daily operation, administrative control of the SRO Program, and conduct of SROs, both personally and professionally, continue to remain the responsibility of DPD. DPD retains supervision of SROs to oversee the SRO Program. Should DISD hire a Security Director, that individual will have no supervisory authority over the SRO Program or its DPD members.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

DISD Officers (SSOs) shall be required to meet the TCOLE weapons qualification with their duty weapon (handgun) and shall be allowed to utilize the DPD firearms range to do so. The weapons qualification shall be supervised by DPD Range Staff and DISD Officers shall be required to complete and pass the same qualification standards that are required for DPD Officers.

Benefit of Action Continued:

DPD agrees that if a DISD Officer assigned to a specific campus is absent or not available for reasons including but not limited to illness, injury, court, vacation,DPD Officers assigned to a specific campus as part of the SRO Program may travel and provide armed security at another campus during portions of the school day. The Parties agree that by doing so, DPD is not violating the July 2023 MOU

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- None

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

- The Superintendent recommends approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Denton, Texas and the Denton Independent School District regarding Texas Education Code Section 37.0814 - Armed Security Officer Required (SSO) whereas City of Denton shall provide Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) mandated training to DISD Officers (SSOs) at the DPD Training Center or other designated location. DPD shall notify DISD when TCOLE mandated training is required and the deadline for that training to be completed. DPD shall provide TCOLE certified instructors for all TCOLE mandated training.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Susannah Holbert O'Bara, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent

ATTACHMENT:

-The Interlocal Agreement between the City of Denton and Denton ISD Texas and the Denton Independent School District regarding Texas Education Code Section 37.0814 - Armed Security Officer Required (SSO)

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: Dr. Jeff Russell

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Area Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____