

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM**

I. The Talbot County Board of Education believes that student and staff safety are important objectives in our school setting. As such, Talbot County Board of Education supports the School Resource Officer Program (SRO) in order to:

- A. Help maintain a safe and secure environment, which will be conducive to learning.
- B. Promote positive attitudes regarding the police's role in society and to inform students of their rights and responsibilities as lawful citizens.
- C. Establish a liaison with school personnel in a cooperative effort to prevent disruptive or violent behaviors.

**II. FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

**A. PRIMARY**

School resource officers are sworn law enforcement officer whose central mission is to keep order on campus with the legal authority to arrest, if necessary.

The SRO assumes primary responsibility for handling all calls for service from the school and coordinates the response of other police resources to the school. The SRO will immediately be expected to serve as a liaison between the school and the police and to provide information to students and school personnel about law enforcement matters.

**B. SECONDARY**

To assist in educating students as to the role of police in our society and other law enforcement related issues, to include: crime prevention, recognition of substance abuse, driver safety, and gang violence.

To assist in educating students in the area of drug resistance, alcohol avoidance, and their civil responsibilities as appropriate.

To maintain contact and positive relationships with government agencies such as the Department of Juvenile Services, Social Services, and the Talbot County Department of Health.

To assist school administrators in diagnosing law enforcement related problems that occur in the school or on school grounds by providing referrals and interventions as needed.

To conduct regular security inspections of buildings and grounds.

### **III. PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT**

The selection of officer for assignment to the SRO program shall be the responsibility of Governing Law Enforcement Agency.

SROs may be assigned to High or Middle Schools in Talbot County. The SRO will be expected to provide some support services to Middle and Elementary schools, upon request, that are in the community of the assigned High school.

The SRO will be assigned to and supervised by the supervisor of the Governing Law Enforcement Agency. The SRO supervisor shall ask principals for their input in the evaluation of the School Resource Officers.

The SRO may be dismissed or reassigned based upon the Governing Law Enforcement Agency's rules and regulations or general orders. In the event of the resignation, dismissal or reassignment of the SRO, the Governing Law Enforcement Agency will provide a replacement for the SRO within a reasonable amount of time. If the SRO is absent from their school, due to personal illness, vacation, meetings, or other law enforcement reasons, the Governing Law Enforcement Agency will notify the school but is not obligated to provide a substitute.

### **IV. SCHOOL REPORTING A CONCERN ABOUT THE SRO**

In the event that the principal of the school, to which the SRO is assigned, feels that the particular SRO is not effectively performing their duties and responsibilities, the principal will state in writing the reasons to the Superintendent. Within a reasonable time after receiving the recommendation from the principal, the Superintendent, or his designees will inform the Supervisor of the principal's concerns. If the Supervisor so desires, the Superintendent and the SRO Supervisor or their designees, will meet with the SRO and the principal to mediate or resolve any problems of the school to which the SRO is assigned. If, within a reasonable amount of time after the commencement of such mediation, the problem cannot be resolved or mediated, or in the event mediation is not sought by the SRO Supervisor, the SRO may be reassigned from the program and a replacement will be obtained.

### **V. SCOPE OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE SRO**

The SRO is, first, a law enforcement officer whose primary duty is to enforce the law.

The SRO will conduct investigations of criminal activities when they are reported to them.

The SRO shall work in cooperation with the principal in their assigned school. School principals have responsibility for enforcement of school discipline and school rules and regulations.

Each SRO shall be familiar with the Talbot County Public Schools student handbook and adhere to the principal's scope of authority in the school when concerning school infractions.

#### **VI. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SRO**

The SRO shall complete investigative reports in accordance with departmental policy. Reports shall be submitted to the SRO Supervisor.

The SRO shall complete the appropriate reports in the event of an arrest of a student who is eighteen years of age or older.

The SRO shall complete a juvenile referral report and the required reports when making an arrest of a student under the age of eighteen and submit the report in accordance with their department procedures.

The SRO will forward copies of all investigative reports, arrest reports, and juvenile referrals to their supervisor in a timely manner.

The SRO should record daily, programs conducted, and student contacts made, in addition to any of the law enforcement activities. These should be recorded on a Talbot County School Resource Officer monthly report at the end of each month.

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