

1 **3650 Students**

2 School Resource Officer

3 In order to make schools more orderly, safe and secure, the District may employ confirmed police officers
4 or contract with the agencies to deliver security services as School Resource Officers (SROs). School
5 Resource Officers will be recognized as school officials and will become the District’s Law Enforcement
6 Unit.

7 The utilization of school resource officers in district schools is to accomplish the following goals:

- 8 1. Maintain a safe and secure environment on and around school grounds;
- 9 2. Reduce incidents of school violence and crime;
- 10 3. Reduce criminal offenses committed by juveniles and young adults;
- 11 4. Establish a rapport between the SRO and the student population; and
- 12 5. Establish a rapport between the SRO and parents, faculty, staff and administrators.

13 The responsibilities of the SROs include but are not be limited to:

- 14 1. Act as employees of the Police Department and be subject to the administration, supervision and
15 control of the Police Department;
- 16 2. Abide with all personnel policies and practices of the Police Department and relevant policies of
17 the Great Falls School District;
- 18 3. Enforce criminal law and protect the students, staff, and public at large against criminal activity
- 19 4. Complete reports and investigate crimes and conduct follow-up investigations as assigned by the
20 SRO supervisors;
- 21 5. Notify as soon as possible the school authorities and the parents of any student criminally
22 charged;
- 23 6. Abide by all applicable legal requirements concerning interviews or searches should it become
24 necessary to conduct formal law enforcement interviews or searches with students or staff on
25 property or at school functions under the jurisdiction of the District. The SROs will not be involved
26 in searches conducted by school personnel unless a criminal act is involved or unless school
27 personnel require the assistance of the SRO because of exigent circumstances, such as the need
28 for safety or to prevent flight;
- 29 7. Be highly visible throughout the campus, yet be unpredictable in their movements. For officer
30 safety reasons, the SROs shall not establish any set routine, which allows predictability in their
31 movements and their locations;
- 32 8. Confer with the school administration to develop plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize
33 dangerous situations on or near the campus or involving students at school-related activities;

- 1 9. Provide information and training concerning issues regarding law enforcement topics for students
2 and staff;
- 3 10. Attend law enforcement agency in-service trainings as required. Reasonable attempts will be
4 made to schedule such trainings to minimize SRO absence from school on an instructional day;
- 5 11. Attend meetings of parent and faculty groups to improve their understanding of the SRO Program
6 and to promote awareness of law enforcement functions;
- 7 12. Be familiar with community agencies offering assistance to youths and their families such as
8 mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, etc., and may make recommendations to the
9 families when appropriate;
- 10 13. Act as the designee of the campus administrator in maintaining the physical plant of the assigned
11 campus to provide a safe environment as to law enforcement matters. This includes building(s),
12 grounds, parking lot(s), lockers and other public school property;
- 13 14. Be involved in school discipline but only when it pertains to preventing a disruption that would, if
14 ignored, place students, faculty and staff at risk of harm. The SRO will assist in resolving the
15 problem to preserve the school climate. Regarding school code violations that disrupt the school
16 learning environment, the SRO will take the student to a school administrator's office for
17 discipline to be meted out by school officials;
- 18 15. Share information with the school administrator(s) about persons and conditions that pertain to
19 all District campus safety concerns;
- 20 16. Wear business casual attire or police uniform with appropriate logos and/or badges depending
21 on the time of school year, the type of school activity or program, and the requests of the school
22 and/or police department;
- 23 17. In accordance with Police Department policy, wear and utilize Police Department authorized duty
24 weapons and utilize school district authorized weapons/evidence storage lockers; in accordance
25 with Police Department policy;
- 26 18. Not transport students in Police Department vehicles except when in the SRO's judgment, the
27 students are victims of a crime, under arrest, or some other unique circumstances exist;
- 28 19. As soon as reasonably possible, in the event an SRO is absent from work, notify his or her
29 supervisor in the Police Department and the principal of the school(s) to which the SRO is
30 assigned;
- 31 20. In collaboration with school administration, SROs may take appropriate law enforcement action
32 against unwanted guests or trespassers who may appear at the school and school related
33 functions, to the extent that the SRO may do so under the authority of the law;
- 34 21. In accordance with Policy 3235, Video Surveillance, SROs are authorized personnel to access the
35 District's video surveillance system; and
- 36 22. In accordance with Policy 3600, Student Records, SROs may access student records as school
37 officials with a legitimate education interest in the information.

1 The Superintendent or their designee will work in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Agency/Police
2 Department in the hiring and placement of school resource officers in schools. The objectives and
3 qualifications of School Resource Officers will be determined by the Police Department and shall be
4 subject to approval by the Board.

5 Cross Reference:

- 6 3225 Sexual Harassment/Intimidation of Students
- 7 3226 Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation/Hazing
- 8 3231 Searches and Seizure
- 9 3235 Video Surveillance
- 10 3300 Suspension and Expulsion
- 11 3310 Student Discipline
- 12 3340 Extra- and Co-Curricular Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Use
- 13 3345 Gambling
- 14 3600 Student Records
- 15 3611 Gangs and Gang Activity
- 16 4313 Disruptions of School Operations
- 17 4315 Spectator Conduct for Athletic and Co-Curricular Events
- 18 4332 Conduct on School Property
- 19 4410 Relations with Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies
- 20 4411 Investigations and Arrests by Police

21 Legal Reference:

- 22 § 20-4-302, MCA Discipline and punishment of pupils - definition of corporal punishment - penalty -
- 23 defense
- 24 § 20-5-202, MCA Suspension and Expulsion
- 25 § 20 U.S.C. § 8921, et.seq. Gun Free Schools Act of 1994
- 26 § 29 U.S.C. § 701 Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- 27 § 45-8-361, MCA Possession or allowing possession of weapon in school building - exceptions - penalties
- 28 - seizure and forfeiture or return authorized – definitions

29 Policy History:

30 Adopted on: March 28, 2016

31 Revised on: