

1 Great Falls School District

2  
3 **STUDENTS**

3230

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5 Student Resource Officer

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7 In order to make schools more orderly, safe and secure, the District may employ confirmed  
8 Police Officers or contract with the agencies to deliver security services as School Resource  
9 Officers (SROs). School Resource Officers will be recognized as school officials and will  
10 become the District's Law Enforcement Unit.

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12 The utilization of School Resource Officers in district schools is to accomplish the following  
13 goals:

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15 1. Maintain a safe and secure environment on and around school grounds;  
16 2. Reduce incidents of school violence and crime;  
17 3. Reduce criminal offenses committed by juveniles and young adults;  
18 4. Establish a rapport between the SRO and the student population; and  
19 5. Establish a rapport between the SRO and parents, faculty, staff and administrators.  
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21 The responsibilities of the SROs include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

Cross References:

- Policy 3225 Sexual Harassment/, Sexual Intimidation, and Sexual Misconduct
- Policy 3226 Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying
- Policy 3231 Searches and Seizure

- 1 Policy 3235 Video Surveillance
- 2 Policy 3300 Suspension and Expulsion
- 3 Policy 3310 Student Discipline
- 4 Policy 3340 Chemical Use
- 5 Policy 3345 Gambling
- 6 Policy 3600 Student Records
- 7 Policy 3611 Gangs and Gang Activity
- 8 Policy 4313 Disruptions of School Operations
- 9 Policy 4315 Spectator Conduct
- 10 Policy 4332 Conduct on School Property
- 11 Policy 4410 Relations with Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies
- 12 Policy 4411 Investigations Conducted by School Officials

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14 Legal References:

- 15 § 20-4-302, MCA Discipline and Punishment of Pupils – Definition of Corporal
- 16 Punishment – Penalty – Defense
- 17 § 20-5-202, MCA Suspension and Expulsion
- 18 § 20 U.S.C. § 8921, et. seq. Gun Free Schools Act of 1994
- 19 § 29 U.S.C. § 701 Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- 20 § 45-8-361, MCA Possession or Allowing Possession of Weapon in School Building
- 21 – Exceptions – Penalties – Seizure and Forfeiture or Return
- 22 Authorized - Definitions

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24 Policy History

- 25 Adopted on: March 28, 2016
- 26 Revised on: August 23, 2021