

School Resource Officer

Purpose

The Board finds it would be proactive and beneficial to make use of a specially trained police officer who would serve as a resource officer in RSU 40's schools with primary focus at the Medomak Valley High School campus. The School Resource Officer (SRO) program will support the desired outcomes of the Maine Learning Results.

The SRO will:

- A. Be responsible for assisting in the promotion of a safe and positive learning environment in the high school and middle school;
- B. Act as a link to support services available both within the school environment and within the community; and
- C. Provide the schools with an additional educational resource by sharing their expertise in the law-related education classroom.

Essential Responsibilities

In addition to their sworn responsibilities as a law enforcement officer, the SRO will abide by Board policies and will consult with and coordinate activities through the school administration. While on school grounds and carrying out the role of SRO, they will abide by and help enforce all RSU 40 policies. The SRO will remain fully responsive to the chain of command of the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment and supervision. In the event of any discrepancy between school board policies and/or the school procedures and police department policies and/or procedures, the SRO will inform the administration, and will follow employing law enforcement agency policy if deemed appropriate by the school administration.

Duties

The SRO's duties will include but not be limited to:

- A. Modeling and instructing in relevant areas of the Maine Learning Results;
- B. Developing expertise in law-related education;
- C. Encouraging individual and small group discussions about law enforcement related matters with students, faculty and parents;

- D. Working with school administrators: If the principal believes an incident is a law violation, the principal will consult with the SRO who will then determine whether law enforcement action is necessary;
- E. Attending meetings of parent and faculty groups to solicit their support and understanding of the SRO program and to promote awareness of law enforcement functions;
- F. Making themselves available for conferences with students, parents, and faculty members to assist them with problems of a law enforcement or crime prevention nature; Nothing herein requires that confidential information obtained from any source be disclosed;
- G. Being familiar with community agencies that offer assistance to youths and their families such as mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, etc., and after consulting with school officials, may make referrals when appropriate;
- H. Conferring with the principal to develop plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations on or near the campus or involving students at school-related activities;
- I. Unless directed otherwise by appropriate law enforcement agency policy or orders, abiding by Board policy concerning interviews should it become necessary to conduct formal police interviews with students or staff on property or at school functions under the jurisdiction of RSU 40;
- J. Promoting citizen awareness of law enforcement efforts to assure the peaceful operation of school-related programs. To build rapport with students, the SRO will, whenever possible, participate in or attend school functions;
- K. Reaffirming their role as a law enforcement officer by wearing their uniform unless doing so would be inappropriate for scheduled school activities or unless directed otherwise by police department policies or orders; The uniform will also be worn at events where it will enhance the image of the officer and their ability to perform their duties;
- L. Acting as the Truant Officer as directed by the administration.

Confidentially of Student Information and Records

- A. The SRO is considered to be a school official with legitimate interest in reviewing student records in order to perform their professional responsibilities.
- B. The SRO is expected to maintain confidentiality of personally identifiable student information in accordance with applicable laws, Board policies, and school rules.

Qualification Requirements

The SRO will be a full-time law enforcement officer. The SRO must be a Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) Graduate and complete one week of SRO Basic Training prior to or within a year of hire and nonviolent crisis intervention as well as any other training required by the school district prior to assignment at the schools. Because RSU 40 has schools in both Lincoln and Knox counties, the SRO must have authority in both counties.

Other Skills and Abilities

The SRO will have the ability to:

- A. Apply knowledge of current research and theory in the specific field.
- B. Establish and maintain effective and positive working relationships with students, staff, and the school community.
- C. Speak clearly and concisely both in oral and written communication.

Evaluation

The Superintendent/designee and the employing law enforcement agency (or their respective designees) will evaluate performance in this position annually.

An annual report evaluating this program will be sent to the School Board.

Terms of Employment

The employing law enforcement agency will determine the terms of employment in consultation with the Superintendent. The officer's continued presence at the schools will depend on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Cross Reference: EBC Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
JICIA-Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
JIH- Student Interviews, Searches, and Arrests
JRA- Student Records

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