

Relations with School Resource Officers and Law Enforcement Authorities

The RSU 40 Board of Directors (Board) recognizes that a cooperative relationship with law enforcement authorities is desirable for the protection of students and staff and in maintaining a safe school environment. To that end, RSU 40 and the Waldoboro Police Department have established a School Resource Officer (SRO) program to serve the RSU 40 schools located in Waldoboro. RSU 40 schools located outside of Waldoboro will rely upon their local law enforcement agency for service.

In keeping with RSU 40's mission, the primary roles of the SRO include:

1. Provide support and assistance to the school administration and staff to maintain a safe and constructive learning environment;
2. Enforce local, state, and federal laws;
3. Serve as a resource to administrators and teachers in planning and providing age-appropriate educational programs that foster respect for the law, an understanding of law enforcement, and safe and healthy behaviors;
4. Serve as a resource to administrators and staff concerning law enforcement and child welfare issues;
5. Assist individual students and their families in addressing issues related to law enforcement and helping students to have a meaningful school experience; and
6. Serve as a liaison between RSU 40's Waldoboro schools and the Waldoboro Police Department in addressing issues of concern to both departments.

School administrators and staff have the primary responsibility for maintaining proper order in the schools and for disciplining students for violations of Board policies and school rules. However, the Superintendent and administrators may seek the assistance of their local law enforcement agencies when they believe there is a threat to the welfare and safety of the schools, students, and/or staff. The Superintendent and administrators will inform their local law enforcement agency when they have reason to suspect that a student or staff member may have violated a state or federal criminal law.

In general, the Board discourages SROs and other law enforcement authorities from using the schools as a venue to arrest and/or question students for activities not related to or

affecting the schools. The Superintendent and administrators retain the authority to deny access to students for non-school-related investigations.

Under this policy, SROs are school officials with legitimate educational interests in reviewing educational records to perform their professional responsibilities.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop administrative procedures in consultation with the local law enforcement agencies to guide interactions. Such procedures should safeguard the rights of students and parents, be consistent with Board policies, and are subject to RSU 40 Board approval.

Legal Reference: 20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99 (FERPA)

Cross Reference: KLGA-R - School Resource Officer/Law Enforcement Administrative Procedure
JRA - Student Education Records and Information
JIH/JIH-R - Questioning and Searches of Students

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