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### ROLE OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER IN THE MUNCIE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

#### A. Officer Presence

School Resource Officers will be liaisons between the Muncie Police Department and school principals, faculty, and students. (SRO) may work closely with parents, students, and members of the community to enhance a sense of safety, order, and manageability in the buildings. Security officers establish a police presence in schools to deter acts of terrorism, violence, or vandalism in the schools. Officers will provide law enforcement and police services. Officers may be requested to investigate allegations of criminal incidents according to their individual department guidelines and make appropriate referrals to juvenile authorities, governmental agencies, and youth service organizations.

#### B. Student / Officer Interaction

SRO's are encouraged to interact with students to develop a rapport and serve as a trusted authority figure with which students might confide valuable information regarding safety and security issues. Officers will be positive role models promoting the profession of law enforcement and police officers. Promoting the school corporation's mission, officers will increase their visibility and accessibility in the individual buildings and the school community.

#### C. School Resource Officers as Role Model and Mentor

SRO's will be in approved attire while working for the school corporation. Officers will conduct themselves in such a manner as to convey a sense of authority and professionalism enhancing the school staff in situations which may cause legal intervention. SRO's should be approachable, courteous and convey a sense of understanding to students and parents who may need to communicate safety concerns to someone.

#### D. Duties and Responsibilities of School Resource Officers

1. Officers will routinely patrol the outer perimeter of the school security building and parking lots to ensure outer doors and entrances are secure at all times. SRO's will assist in hallway supervision during passing periods and during class times, assist in dining area security, patrol hallways, restrooms, unoccupied classroom spaces and inconspicuous areas of the building. SRO's may be asked to perform the duties of a police officer regarding report preparation, requesting juvenile probation assistance or other community-based service organization intervention for youth.

The following statements represent expectations/guidelines related to the execution of duties by police officers and deputy sheriffs while working security assignments in the public schools. Officers should help schools maintain a safe environment by providing assistance to make sure students respond appropriately to school officials.

1. Officers are required to follow all guidelines relating to all rules and regulations, policies, and procedures adopted by this action plan.
2. When a suspected crime has been committed on school property, the school security officer has the responsibility to consider all administrative options available to the officer, as well as state statute requirements to then make a decision whether an arrest is appropriate or not.
3. Permission from school administrators to make an arrest is unnecessary when a crime has been committed; however, officers are expected to continue to exercise good judgment prior to placing a student or an adult under arrest. The building administrator(s) will assume a support role once a student or adult is placed under arrest.
4. School administrators may request or offer an opinion regarding a potential arrest: however, the school administrator may not order an officer to make an arrest or not to make an arrest.
  - a. Under Indiana law, a person who obstructs or interferes with a law enforcement officer while the officer is engaged in the execution of his duties commits the crime of Resisting Law Enforcement, a class A Misdemeanor. Therefore, any school administrator, employee, agent, or student who obstructs, interferes with or prevents the arrest of a student or another person, or otherwise obstructs or interferes with a law enforcement officer's duties in any way may be subject to immediate arrest by that officer and formal prosecution by the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office for the criminal offense of Resisting Law Enforcement.
  - b. It is also a criminal offense to aid, induce, or cause another person to commit a criminal offense. Any administrator, employee, agent, or student who aids, induces, or causes a fellow administrator, employee, agent, or student to obstruct or interfere with a law enforcement officer may also be subject to immediate arrest and prosecution for the criminal offense of Resisting Law Enforcement.
5. School administrators should provide the officer with factual information regarding incidents; the officer shall determine whether arrests are to be made.
6. Officers may not question a student once the student becomes a criminal suspect without the permission of the *parent/guardian*. The officer may take statements from witnesses and should obtain written documentation from school administrators as appropriate.
7. When making an arrest, the officer will complete a case report/juvenile referral form. Juvenile Probation must be called for detention approval prior to transport to the Detention Center by the arresting officer.
8. The SRO's will determine whether the student should be:
  - a. released from the school to the parent/guardian;
  - b. transported to the Juvenile Probation Office with their permission; or
  - c. detained in the Juvenile Detention Center after notification and approval of the Delaware County Juvenile Probation Department.

9. School administrators may refer parents with questions regarding an arrest to officials at the Juvenile Probation Office or the officer involved in the incident.
10. Officers and school administrators should avoid telling students they have a choice concerning whether the incident will be resolved as a police matter or as a school matter. When a crime is committed, there is no choice.
11. Students involved in a fight on school property could be arrested, upon Juvenile Probation approval, in any of the following circumstances:
  - a. Determination by an officer that probable cause exists to believe a criminal act has been committed.
  - b. The fight is premeditated.
  - c. The fight is a vicious, unwarranted attack.
  - d. The student does not respond appropriately to the attempts by adults to intervene.
  - e. The student has received a specific warning not to harm the victim.
12. Students in possession of contraband items or a firearm, knife, handmade weapon(s) or exploding devices at school will be subject to all school rules and consequences. Officers will address each incident in accord with the Indiana Criminal Code.

(Note)= SRO's School Resource Officers