
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER: 4311

Purpose, Mission, and Role

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a commissioned law enforcement officer in the state of Washington with sworn authority to make arrest, deployed in community-oriented policing and assigned by the employing police department or sheriff's office to work in schools and address crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around K-12 schools.

The mission of the Federal Way Public Schools SRO program is to improve school safety and the educational climate at the school. The role of the SRO on campus typically involves three parts: educator, informal counselor, and law enforcer. The focus of any SRO working in the District is to keep scholars out of the criminal justice system when possible. The SRO shall be integrated into the school community through participation in faculty and student meetings and assemblies as appropriate. SROs shall support a positive school climate by developing positive relationships with scholars, parents, and staff, and by helping to promote a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment. The SRO is a valuable member of the School Based Threat Assessment Teams, which are preventative in purpose. The SRO is encouraged to participate consistent with Policy and Procedure 3225 School-Based Threat Assessment.

The primary responsibility for maintaining proper order and conduct in the schools resides with school principals and designee, with the support of other school staff. This may include minor violations of the law occurring during school hours or at school activities. The SRO program does not diminish the district's authority and shall not be used to attempt to impose criminal sanctions in matters that are more appropriately handled within the District. Principals or their designee maintain order and handle all student discipline matters consistent Student Discipline and Corrective Action Policy and Procedure 3241. SROs appropriately interact with student informally to reinforce school rules.

Teachers and school administrators may ask an SRO to intervene if a student's presence poses an immediate and continuing danger to others or an immediate and continuing threat of material and substantial disruption of the educational process or in other emergency circumstances consistent with Policy 3432 Emergencies. The SROs do not need to be asked before intervening in emergencies.

As a general rule, law enforcement activity should take place at a location other than school premises. However, there are circumstances where formal law enforcement intervention/activity at school is warranted and may be conducted by an SRO. These law enforcement activities may include interviews and interrogations; search of a student's person, possessions, or locker; citations, filing of delinquency petitions, referrals to a probation officer, actual arrests, and other referrals to the juvenile justice system, consistent with Policy and Procedure 3230 Student Privacy and Searches and 3226 Interview and Interrogations of Students in School Premises.

The SRO duties do not extend to immigration enforcement and the SRO will not inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth. Neither will the SRO provide information pursuant to notification requests from federal

immigration authorities for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by law, consistent with Policy and Procedure 4300 Limiting Immigration Enforcement in Schools and 4310 District Relationships with Law Enforcement and Other Government Agencies.

The District and Federal Way Police Department will adopt an agreement and annually review the SRO program using a process that involves parents, scholars, and community members. The agreement will include a process for families to file complaints with the District and the local law enforcement agency related to the District SROs and a process for investigating and responding to complaints, including reporting the final outcome to the District. The agreement will incorporate an annual collection and reporting of data regarding calls for law enforcement services and the outcome of each call. In addition, the agreement will incorporate the SRO's duties and the limitations thereof consistent with this policy, other related governing policies, required trainings, and the governing regulations.

2121 – Substance Abuse
2145 – Suicide Prevention
2161 – Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
2162 – Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the
Rehabilitation Act of 1973
3143 – District Notification of Juvenile Offenders
3144 – Release of Information Concerning Student Sexual and
Kidnapping Offenders
3208 – Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm
3225 – School-based Threat Assessment
3226 – Interviews and Interrogations of Students on School Premises
3230 – Student Privacy and Searches
3241 – Discipline and Corrective Action for Student Misconduct
3246 – Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force
3432 – Emergencies
4210 – Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
4310 – District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other
Government Agencies

RCW 10.93.160	Immigration and Citizenship Status
RCW 26.44.030	Interview of children
RCW 26.44.050	Abuse or neglect of child – Duty of law enforcement agency or department of social and health services – Taking child into custody without court order, when.
RCW 26.44.110	Information about rights – Custody without court order – Written statement required – Contents

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RCW 26.44.115 Child taken into custody under court order –
 Information to parents
RCW 28A.300.640 – 645 School based threat assessment program
Chapter 28A.320.124 School resource officer programs
20 U.S.C. 1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act