

# Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring:  <b>Review: Annually, in October</b>	Descriptor Term:  <h2 style="margin: 0;">Security</h2>	Descriptor Code: <b>3.205</b>	Issued Date: <b>07/18/24</b>
		Rescinds:	Issued: <b>07/08/13; 09/27/21; 08/14/23</b>

## *General*<sup>1</sup>

The Director of Schools/designee shall establish procedures to protect schools which shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Closing and securing teacher work areas when left unattended or at the end of the day;
2. Denying students permission to use the classrooms, laboratories, gymnasiums, or other school facilities or equipment without appropriate supervision;
3. Controlling the issuance of keys;
4. Developing programs that contribute to the proper care and use of school facilities and equipment; and
5. Ensuring that equipment purchased with federal funds is managed as directed by federal law.<sup>2</sup>

All exterior doors leading into a school building shall be locked at all times and access to school buildings is limited to the school's primary entrance during the school day as well as when students are present outside of regular school hours.<sup>3</sup>

The principal shall immediately call law enforcement officials and the Director of Schools/designee in cases involving illegal entry, assault and battery resulting in serious personal injury or involving the use of a weapon, building damage, theft, vandalism endangering life health, or safety, or valid threats of mass violence.<sup>4</sup> The Director of Schools/designee is authorized to sign a criminal complaint and press charges. The Director of Schools/designee shall report all signing of such complaints to the Board.

## **AFTER SCHOOL HOURS**

If, outside of regular school hours, there is a need to unlock the doors during a school activity, a school district employee shall be stationed by the door to ensure access is limited to authorized persons.<sup>3</sup>

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**<sup>1</sup>

The Board may enter into collaborative partnerships with appropriate law enforcement agencies. Partnerships may include, but not be limited to, education and recreational programs, delinquency prevention, and mentoring initiatives.

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The Board may enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the chief of a law enforcement agency to provide school policing. The MOU shall address, at a minimum, the following issues:

1. Any school resource officer (SRO) assigned under the MOU shall be in compliance with all laws, regulations, and rules of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission at the time of assignment and remain compliant throughout his/her assignment.
2. As a condition of assignment, any SRO shall participate in forty (40) hours of basic training in school policing within twelve (12) months of assignment. Every year thereafter, the SRO shall participate in a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of training specific to school policing. All training programs shall be approved by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission.<sup>5</sup>
3. Any SRO assigned under the MOU remains an employee of the law enforcement agency and is subject to that agency's direction, control, supervision, and discipline.
4. No SRO shall be assigned to a school, or continue in such an assignment, without the consent of the Director of Schools.
5. In the event that more than one (1) SRO is assigned to a school district, the law enforcement agency shall designate one (1) of the SROs as the senior SRO. The duties of the senior SRO shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. Representing and carrying out the policies of the law enforcement agency assigning the SROs;
  - b. Supervising the SROs in the performance of their duties;
  - c. Consulting with the Director of Schools regarding the best use of the available resources for school policing; and
  - d. Resolving disputes between the SROs and students or staff members.
6. The MOU may be effective for any length of time, continuing until terminated by the parties, and may contain any reasonable notice requirement for the termination of the MOU. However, the MOU shall contain a provision allowing the Director of Schools/designee to suspend the active participation of any SROs in the event that the Director of Schools/designee believes that such suspension is best for the health, safety, or wellbeing of the students or staff members.

## **CYBERSECURITY<sup>6</sup>**

The Director of Schools/designee shall develop an administrative procedure regarding the district's cybersecurity plan to identify cybersecurity risks, implement mitigation planning, and protect cyberinfrastructure against cyberattacks and other cybersecurity threats and incidents.

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Legal References

1. [TCA 49-6-805\(3\)](#)
2. [2 CFR § 200.313](#)
3. [TCA 49-6-817](#)
4. [Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 882](#)
5. [TCA 49-6-4217](#)
6. [TCA 49-6-805\(9\)](#)

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Cross References

Visitors to the Schools 1.501  
Inventories 2.702  
Care of School Property 6.311