



Godley ISD

Wildcat Talks Safety and Well-Being

Godley ISD Police Department

In July of 2023, after an in-depth application process, Godley ISD Police Department was granted its official police agency status by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Godley ISD Police Department is currently comprised of two School-Based Law Enforcement officers; one housed at the high school and the other housed at R.B. Godley Elementary. Officers regularly visit all of the campuses as part of their assigned duties.

Godley ISD Police Department is responsible for providing safety and protection for the district to students, faculty, visitors, and district property, as well as investigating crimes that occur on district property.

It is our goal to have at least one Commissioned Peace Officer at each campus to be in compliance with the law. At this time, Godley ISD qualifies for the 'good cause exemption' to this law because of our guardian program, which consists of armed & trained staff members.

What is School-Based Law Enforcement?

- ◆ School-Based Law Enforcement (SBLE) is defined by Texas Education Code, §37.081
 - ◆ The board of trustees of any school district may:
 - ◆ employ security personnel
 - ◆ enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law enforcement agency for the provision of school resource officers, and
 - ◆ commission peace officers
 - ◆ TCOLE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement) sets reporting standards and procedures for
 - ◆ appointment and termination of peace officers, as well as
 - ◆ provides that the chief administrative officer of a law enforcement agency is responsible for compliance with the reporting standards and procedures prescribed by the Commission

School Based Law Enforcement are officers just the same as local city, county, and state peace officers with same training standards and arrest power. SBLE's have additional training requirements and have jurisdiction in all cities/counties where their students are zoned to live (school district ETJ, Extra-territorial Jurisdiction).

SBLE continued...

- ◆ SBLEs, SROs, and/or security personnel shall:
 - ◆ perform law enforcement duties for the school district, including
 - ◆ protecting the safety and welfare of any person within the jurisdiction and
 - ◆ protect the property of the school district
- ◆ SBLEs, SROs, and/or security personnel shall NOT:
 - ◆ be assigned (or required as a duty), administrative tasks nor routine student discipline
- ◆ SBLE/SRO requirements:
 - ◆ Must be a Commissioned Peace Officer, and receive
 - ◆ ALERRT training (16 training hours), and
 - ◆ TCOLE SBLE training, which includes: Child & Adolescent Development, Mental Health, De-escalation, & Restorative Justice (20 training hours)

Some examples when SBLE officers get involved

- ◇ Emergencies (safety-security and/or medical)
- ◇ Non-emergency matters of safety to students, staff, and/or visitors

When a complaint is made / a report is requested

- ◇ Theft > \$100
- ◇ Criminal Mischief > \$100
- ◇ Assault

- ◇ Aggravated Assault
- ◇ Sexual Assault
- ◇ Threats, harassment, bullying
- ◇ Threats to school
- ◇ Possession of illegal substances
- ◇ Other crimes that occur on district property

Threats to school

Texas Penal Code Section 22.07 covers TERRORISTIC THREAT and a person violates this statute if they threaten to commit any offense involving violence to any person or property.

1. Cause a reaction of any type to the threat by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies
2. Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, place of employment or occupation, aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance, or other public place
4. Cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power or other public service
5. Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury
6. Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or political subdivision of the state

Threats to school

The punishment for a violation of this statute ranges from

Class B Misdemeanor
to

Third Degree Felony

Generally the punishment when it involves a threat to a school is going to be a FELONY.

What is a threat to a school?

Some examples:

- ◆ Statements about bringing a weapon to school
- ◆ Threatening to do a school shooting, bomb the school, or shoot student or a staff member
- ◆ A social media post of a weapon and a vague statement
- ◆ A telephone call to the school, text message or social media direct message
- ◆ Swatting – inciting an emergency and/or tactical response on false information
- ◆ A verbal statement whether intended to be taken serious or not (i.e. joking amongst friends and/or a private conversation overheard by another person).

Threats are assessed at the time law enforcement is notified. A threat reported immediately will be treated as more imminent than a threat that occurred days ago and in the time that has past nothing has happened. Both types of threats will still be investigated and prosecution sought.

What happens?

Law enforcement takes all threats to campuses, students, and staff seriously and investigates all of them, immediately.

School safety is always at the forefront.

Law enforcement conducts the investigation and updates district personnel and the public. Investigating the threat takes priority over providing updates. If information is important and immediately vital to public safety, law enforcement will share and distribute that information.

Depending on how and when the threat is made may determine who takes the lead on the investigation.

Law enforcement agencies work together to bring a resolution to the investigation.

Godley ISD Police Department, Godley PD, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, FBI, etc.

Resources

- ◊ Godley ISD Police Department
- ◊ Johnson County Sheriff's Office
- ◊ Godley Police Department
- ◊ DPS
- ◊ Johnson County Constable's Office
- ◊ FBI
- ◊ Juvenile Justice
- ◊ Courts
- ◊ SROs
- ◊ Patrol officers
- ◊ Supervisors
- ◊ Deputies
- ◊ SWAT/tactical teams
- ◊ CID/Detectives/Investigators
- ◊ Special Agents
- ◊ Evidence technicians/crime lab

How is a threat investigated?

- ◆ Interviews (in-person, knocking on doors, middle of the night – etc.)
 - ◆ Students, parents, staff, friends, family, neighbors, whoever needs to be interviewed
- ◆ Search warrants
 - ◆ Social media entities
 - ◆ SnapChat, Instagram, TikTok, messenger apps (photos, conversations, messages, posts, recovery of deleted material)
 - ◆ Residences (with tactical teams/SWAT, when circumstances are considered armed and dangerous)
 - ◆ Bedrooms, common living areas, vehicles - wherever a judge grants pertaining to the investigation
 - ◆ Looking for weapons, electronics, evidence in support of crime being investigated
- ◆ Reports
- ◆ Evidence
- ◆ Cases to court

These steps are conducted in an effort to discovery and seize evidence which supports the investigation (either that a threat was made or not and the source of the threat). All leads are followed up on until the threat has been mitigated (arrest/hoax/credible or not).

Credible?

What does credible mean?

What makes a threat credible?

How is a threat no longer deemed a threat by law enforcement?

Credible?

The word credible is defined as

able to be believed; convincing

capable of persuading people that something will happen or be successful

For law enforcement & school safety, credibility of a threat per se, is not so much looked at as just believing something at face value, but rather, having some evidence or other corroborating circumstances that support the threat being made is real or there is a strong likelihood of occurrence.

Time frame can also be a factor. Is it reasonable to believe the threat is imminent?

For example, someone standing in front of a location while holding a can of gas and matches threatening to burn the place down, versus, someone notifying authorities that last week they overheard a person A state they were going to shoot person B and in the time that has passed no shooting had occurred. They are both still threats and carry a criminal penalty.

Credible?

If law enforcement deems a threat not credible or no longer credible it simply means from a law enforcement/school safety stand point it is safe to attend/return to school and resume the day. Law enforcement, through investigation, has determined that its either a hoax, or the person who made the threat does not have the means to actually carry out the threat and it is safe for students, staff and visitors to be at school. Or the threat was real and law enforcement mitigated the danger by thwarting the attempt to harm others and arrested the perpetrator.

**A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION BY
LAW ENFORCEMENT STILL OCCURS**

Law Enforcement role vs school role

- ◇ Law enforcement investigates the criminal side of the threat being made and advises the school if there is a safety concern.
 - ◇ Investigation details are not shared with non-law enforcement district personnel
 - ◇ Confidential information remains confidential
- ◇ Regardless of the credibility of the threat, a criminal investigation is conducted and prosecution will be sought.
 - ◇ District personnel are notified if a student is arrested and/or being prosecuted
- ◇ School district administrative personnel conduct their own threat assessment
- ◇ Determine if a safety plan is appropriate moving forward
- ◇ Issue administrative punishment based on school procedures
 - ◇ TAP/ISS (Temporary Alternative Placement/In-School Suspension)
 - ◇ OSS/DAEP (Outside School Suspension/Disciplinary Alternative Education Program)
 - ◇ Expulsion/JJAEP (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program)

How to report to Law Enforcement

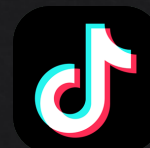
EMERGENCIES.....911

Non-Emergencies:

- ◆ Godley ISD Police Department.....817-592-4192
9501 N. Hwy 171, Godley, TX 76044
Stay Alert (www.stayaalert.info or call/text 206-406-6485 or email report@stayaalert.info)
- ◆ Godley Police Department.....817-389-2500
200 W. Railroad St., Godley, TX 76044
- ◆ Johnson County Sheriff's Office.....817-556-6060
1102 E. Kilpatrick St., Cleburne, TX 76031
Johnson County Crime Stoppers (www.jccstexas.org or call 800-794-8477)
- ◆ Johnson County Constable's Office (Precinct 1).....817-556-6163
3390 FM 1434, Cleburne, TX 76033

Social media

- ❖ Social media platforms are NOT monitored 24/7 and are NOT considered a means of reporting to law enforcement.
- ❖ Making a social media post, whether you 'tag' a police agency or not, is NOT considered a police report and will not initiate an investigation on the post alone.
- ❖ Law Enforcement uses social media to communicate information to the public and as an investigative tool.
- ❖ Posting screen shots of social media threats can invite copy-cat crimes and sometimes gives others just the information they need to incite additional public panic.
- ❖ This has the potential to hinder an investigation and/or take valuable resources away from an investigation.



Safety of our children

Local law enforcement officers train regularly

Physical training (ALERRT, range and tactics, physical conditioning)

Mental training (classroom training, conferences/seminars, networking for resources)

Regular school visits and walk-throughs by local agencies

Godley PD, Johnson County Sheriff Deputies, DPS State Troopers

Educational presentations Red Ribbon week, dangers of drugs and tobacco/nicotine/fentanyl



Thank you

Matt Quinteros, Chief of Police

Godley ISD Police Department

9501 N Hwy 171

Godley, TX 76044

817-592-4192

mquinteros@godleyisd.net