



OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Excellence, Equity, and Service”

Office of School Safety Mission

The mission of the Office Of School Safety is to provide for the safety and security of all students, staff, visitors and property at all facilities throughout the district. We accomplish our mission by prioritizing community trust and respect, collaborative partnerships, and promoting justice and inclusion.

What We've Noticed

Current Challenges

- LBUSD staff lose operational control of an incident once local Law Enforcement gets involved.
- Varied response actions of local law enforcement.
 - Leading to varied outcomes for similar situations.
 - Subjective and/or unnecessary arrests of students.
 - Leading to punitive records for students.
- Varied response speed and size of local law enforcement response.
- Inability to hire and/or retain current staff.

Reimagined Solutions

The Reimagined Operations Proposal aims to align School Safety operations to LBUSD's Core Values* and Vision 2035:

- Reduce the reliance on external law enforcement agencies. (LBPD, SHPD, LASO).
 - **Authentic Community Engagement and Collaboration; Environment that Fosters Connection, Respect, and Safety;*
- Enhance LBUSD's capacity to explore Alternative Disciplinary Measures.
 - **Equity and Social Justice; Culture of Innovation and Creativity;*
- Improve recruitment and retention of top talent.
 - **Fostering Joy and Commitment; Integrity and Responsible Leadership;*

Reduce Dependence on External Law Enforcement

Current Practice

- Incidents at LBUSD Schools involve:
 - School Safety personnel
 - External Law Enforcement Agency
- External partners are required when:
 - Crime occurs.
 - Victim(s) seek prosecution.
- Once LEA arrives, their policies and procedures are followed.
 - LBUSD surrenders control of the outcome.
- Community is often “passed around” to gather information from responding parties.

Proposed Action

Authorizes School Safety personnel with the authority to act, within policy and procedure, and resolve the entirety of an incident.

- Significantly minimizes the need for LEA to respond to schools.
 - Reduces the amount of unnecessary Officers responding.
 - Minimizes the need for students to recount the incident multiple times.
- LBUSD/School Safety policies and procedures take precedence.
- Streamlines the incident management
 - Provides community with one source and contact.
- Frees local law enforcement partners to continue to service the community at large without creating a larger burden.

Exploring Alternative Methods to Punitive Actions

- Fall 2024, LBUSD began a Pilot for Restorative Justice interventions for actions resulting in criminal citations for :
 - Trespassing
 - Vandalism
 - Petty Theft
 - Simple Battery
 - Possession of Knife on school grounds.
- Results have been highly successful:
 - 15 cases referred (24/25 sy)
 - 15 cases fully dismissed
- Partnering with local CBOs to build support to expand program.
- LBUSD recognized as Official Diversion Provider
 - LACO Dep. of Youth Development
 - LB City Prosecutor's office

LBUSD is the recipient of a \$2 million grant to build and expand this program over the next 3 years.

Improve Recruitment and Retention

Current Challenges

- Significant Labor Shortages in LE industry
- Competing financial incentives
 - LBPD = \$78K total incentive
 - Other LA cities = \$50k+ cash bonus
- High Turnover (School Safety Specific)
 - Peace Officer Certification
 - Authorizes and continues to maintain peace officer certification.
 - School Safety's current setup, officers lose certification after 6 years.
 - Staff leave to other agencies to keep their certification.
 - Lost costs associated with training, personal investment, community trust.

Proposed Solution

- Reduces High Turnover
 - Results in:
 - Consistent presence and greater community building
 - Less lost costs
- Increases desirability of LBUSD for employment.
- Increase available training at free or reduced costs.
 - State Reimbursement for POST trainings
- Grant funding available for POST agencies with focus on *violence prevention, substance education, and other programs.*
 - We compete for similar funds as our CBOs, without taking funds from them.

What Will The Community Notice?

- School Safety Officers no longer stop their process to involve PD. More situations are resolved without external agency involvement.
 - Clarity for parents on where to get information or support.
 - Faster response times and faster resolution of incidents.
 - More accountability and outcomes through Diversion program referrals.
 - Accountability/Response is seen and felt faster, leading to quicker resolution and healing.
 - More consistency in which officer responds where, creating greater capacity for building trust and partnership within the community.
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- In general, the public will see more transparency, wider range of support, and student-centered outcomes