

Memorandum of Agreement between the Fairfield Public Schools and the Fairfield Police Department

I. Introduction

This agreement establishes a framework for collaboration between the Fairfield Public Schools and the Fairfield Police Department to promote a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment for students, staff, and visitors.

Schools and law enforcement share responsibility for school safety and must work together through coordinate policies, procedures and communication. This agreement is intended to provide clear guidance for responding to school-based incidents, including non-emergency situations and other safety-related concerns, while reinforcing the distinct roles of school personnel and law enforcement.

The Fairfield Police Department School Safety Division (SSD) supports a proactive approach to school safety. The SSD provides a visible law enforcement presence, supports school safety planning, and serves as a resource to students, staff, and families. Emphasis is placed on early identification of concerns and intervention to reduce the likelihood of crisis events and promote positive outcomes for students.

This agreement also seeks to ensure a consistent and measured response to student misconduct, prioritizing school-based interventions whenever appropriate and minimizing unnecessary involvement with the juvenile justice system. Law enforcement action is reserved for situations involving criminal conduct, credible threats, or safety concerns, consistent with applicable laws, policies, and best practices.

A. Police Activity at Schools

The parties agree that police need to follow certain protocols when on school grounds in non-emergency circumstances as follows:

1. All police personnel will act through the School Safety Division Supervisor, who in turn will coordinate with school administrators, whenever practicable, when planning any activity on school grounds, unless circumstances prohibit such notice.
2. The School Safety Division Supervisor shall be notified of significant school-based incidents, including arrests, criminal investigations, and other matters requiring law enforcement action involving students or staff, whether occurring during school hours or outside of school hours when there is a nexus to school safety. The Supervisor shall ensure appropriate coordination, review, and required notifications in accordance with this agreement and applicable law.
3. Officers entering school grounds will be aware of the potential disruption of the educational process that a police presence may cause.
4. When interacting with students and operating within the school environment, officers shall be guided by the following principles:
 - a. **De-escalation:** Officers shall prioritize de-escalation techniques and strategies in all interactions with students whenever feasible.

- b. **School-Based Context:** Officers shall take into account the educational setting, the age and developmental level of students, and the potential impact of police actions on the school environment.
 - c. **Trauma-Informed Approach:** Officers shall, to the extent practicable, utilize a trauma-informed approach that recognizes the potential impact of prior experiences and seeks to minimize unnecessary stress or harm.
 - d. **Restorative Practices:** Officers shall, when appropriate and consistent with their law enforcement responsibilities, support and align with school-based restorative practices and interventions.
- 5. Prior to entering a school to conduct an investigation, arrest or search, officers will consider the necessity of such action based on
 - a. The potential danger to persons;
 - b. The likelihood of destruction of evidence or other property;
 - c. The ability to conduct the investigation, arrest or search elsewhere.
- 6. When taking a student into custody:
 - a. Officers should make reasonable efforts to avoid making arrests or taking students into custody on the school premises
 - b. Whenever possible, students should be taken into custody out of sight and sound of other students.
- 7. School Resource Officers (SRO's) and Fairfield Police Officers in general, shall not be responsible for, or involved in, routine student discipline with regard to enforcement of school rules.
- 8. The School Safety Division Supervisor will work collaboratively with the school administrators to determine the goals and priorities for the SRO program.

B. Student Interview and Interrogation

When an officer finds it necessary to conduct a non-custodial interview on school premises of a student who is, or may be a suspect in a criminal investigation, the following guidelines shall be followed. In all cases, the School Safety Division Supervisor must be aware of any such interviews before they occur.

- 1. The Principal of the school, or in their absence, the next senior school administrator, must be contacted prior to any such interview.
 - a. SRO's will first notify the School Safety Division Supervisor, and with approval, will make contact with the appropriate school administrator.
 - b. Police personnel not assigned to the School Safety Division, shall first contact the School Safety Division Supervisor, who will coordinate contacting the appropriate school administrator.
 - c. The school administrator will be informed of the intention to interview the student and the nature of the interview/investigation. The Principal will arrange for the interview at a mutually agreeable time.

- d. It is understood that exigent circumstances may result in deviation from this notification, however, timely and appropriate notification is required.
2. The principal and/or the investigating officer shall contact the parent or guardian, explain the nature of the interview, and request permission for the interview prior to conducting the interview, unless circumstances require otherwise. Officers shall have a parent or guardian present during the interview when required by applicable law or Fairfield Police Department policy.
3. In the event the parent should object to the interview or refuse to be present, the officer will not conduct the interview at that time. If the parent or guardian indicates a willingness to be present, the officer will await their arrival before commencing.
4. The interview shall be conducted in the Principal's Office or in another area to ensure the privacy of the student. Both parent and child shall be advised of and presented applicable waiver of rights according to Fairfield Police Department policy and respective law.
5. In the event that the juvenile student suspect to be interviewed is 16 or 17 years old, the guidelines outlined in Fairfield Police Department policy, shall be followed.
6. If at any point during the interview the student or his parent(s) request that the interview be terminated, that request shall be honored.
7. If unusual circumstances require a deviation from the above policy procedures, an officer shall notify his supervisor and obtain further instructions.
8. If the student to be interviewed is a victim or a witness in an investigation, the officer investigating the incident shall make an attempt to contact a parent or guardian to convey information regarding the situation and to obtain permission to conduct the interview. A parent or guardian should be present during the interview if possible. The parent or guardian shall not be contacted if that individual is the suspect of the investigation such as in a case of alleged sexual or physical abuse. DCF shall be notified.
9. When conducting interviews of students on school grounds, officers shall take into account the age, developmental level, and individual circumstances of the student, and shall conduct such interviews in a manner consistent with the principles outlined in this agreement, including de-escalation, consideration of the school environment, and trauma-informed practices.
10. Officers shall make reasonable efforts to notify a parent or guardian prior to interviewing a student and, when feasible, have a parent, guardian, or appropriate school staff member present during the interview, unless circumstances require otherwise.

C. Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Fairfield Police Department School Safety Division (SSD) is to enhance both the actual and perceived level of safety within each school community through a comprehensive, collaborative, and prevention-focused approach. This approach emphasizes proactive engagement, strong partnerships, and a school-centered safety framework that prioritizes the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the broader school community.

The SSD supports school safety through the following core functions:

1. **Prevention and Intervention:** Emphasize early identification of concerns and proactive intervention strategies, including participation in multidisciplinary threat assessment and

behavioral intervention processes, to reduce the likelihood of crisis events and support positive student outcomes.

2. **Physical Security and Safety Planning:** Provide a visible presence within school communities and assist in identifying and addressing safety and security vulnerabilities related to infrastructure, environment, procedures, and technology. Recommendations for improvement will be communicated to the Superintendent's Office through the School Safety Division Supervisor.
3. **Training and Education:** Provide safety awareness training and educational programming for students, staff, and the parent community, including topics related to personal safety, risk reduction, and responsible decision-making.
4. **Partnership and Communication:** Foster strong working relationships with school administrators, faculty, student support services, and community partners to support coordinated responses, effective communication, and shared responsibility for school safety.
5. **School Community Engagement and Presence:** Promote positive relationships with students and staff through consistent engagement within the school environment. School Safety Division personnel are encouraged, when appropriate, to attend school-related activities such as after-school events, athletics, and community programs to strengthen trust and visibility as members of the school community.

D. Staffing

School Safety Division (SSD) personnel are employees of the Fairfield Police Department and are not considered "school officials" as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

1. The SSD shall consist of a supervisor and no fewer than seven (7) School Resource Officers (SROs), assigned to support Fairfield Public Schools. Each traditional high school shall have a dedicated SRO assigned. Additional SRO assignments to middle, elementary and alternative schools shall be determined based on operational needs, with the goal of maintaining a consistent and effective presence across all school levels.
2. The SSD Supervisor will be provided with an office at the Fairfield Public Schools Central Office. SRO's will each be provided with appropriate and secure office space within one of their assigned schools.
3. The primary responsibility of officers assigned to the SSD is to serve as a sworn law enforcement officer within his/her assigned school community. Secondary responsibilities include serving as a mentor, instructor and positive role model to students. Additional responsibilities of the SRO's will be to implement the Fairfield Police "SHAPE Our Youth" educational program. Responsibilities are described in more detail in the "Roles and Responsibilities" section.

II. Roles and Responsibilities:

As previously stated, all members of the School Safety Division (SSD) are employees of the Fairfield Police Department and are not school officials or employees of Fairfield Public Schools. Accordingly, SSD personnel report through the supervisory structure established by Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures. They are not authorized to perform tasks outside of the normal scope of their duties as a police officer as define by law, policy and this agreement.

A. School Resource Officer (SRO)

1. Provide a uniformed, visible police presence at assigned school(s) and school-related events. Such presence may, when appropriate, extend to other Fairfield Public Schools as needs arise, as well as to school-sponsored activities, events, and operational needs occurring outside of regular school hours to support safety, visibility, and community engagement.
2. Address calls for service and/or safety hazards at schools.
3. Serve as an informational resource to staff, students and parents on safety information and interpretation of law.
4. Promote a positive image of law enforcement to students, parents, and the overall community.
5. Serve as a counselor, mentor, and educator for students.
6. Serve as an active member on safety committees and threat assessment teams at assigned schools within guidelines set by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
7. Aid in enhancing physical security and security procedures at schools.
8. Periodically assess for, identify, and report vulnerabilities at schools.
9. Become familiar with building floor plans and emergency contact information for assigned schools. Ensure this information remains updated.
10. Conduct or support periodic training for school administrators and staff on school safety and emergency response topics, including participation in drills and safety planning, as appropriate and in coordination with school administration.
11. Participate in periodic school safety meetings with staff, students, parent organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate and in coordination with school administration to support communication, coordination, and overall school safety efforts.
12. Respond to and investigate criminal incidents occurring on school grounds during school hours and, when necessary, after school hours, as determined by the School Safety Division Supervisor.
13. Implement and support safety and law related educational programming and serve as a resource to students, staff, and the broader school community at assigned schools, with an emphasis on prevention, awareness, and informed decision-making. Programming and related efforts may include:
 - a. The Fairfield Police SHAPE (Safety Health and Positive Environment) Program currently delivered at the 5th and 6th grade levels.
 - b. Developmentally appropriate programming for middle and high school students, including topics such as personal safety, responsible decision-making, substance abuse awareness, digital safety, and related issues.
 - c. Additional presentations and outreach, as appropriate, including classroom instruction, assemblies, after-school programs, presentations to parent organizations (i.e., PTA), and other community-based events to support education, awareness, and community engagement.

- d. Identify emerging safety concerns and trends and explore, develop, and implement new or enhanced educational programming and initiatives to address the evolving needs of students, staff, and the school community, in coordination with school administration.
14. Take possession of evidence, contraband, or other prohibited or dangerous items encountered in the course of duties and handle, secure, and process such items in accordance with Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures.
15. Conduct proactive enforcement of applicable laws and ordinances on school grounds and at school-related events to support safety, deterrence, and compliance, in coordination with school administration and consistent with Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures.
16. Remain aware of incidents occurring in close proximity to assigned schools, assess any potential impact on the safety and operations of the school environment, and respond or coordinate a response as appropriate.

B. School Safety Division Supervisor

The School Safety Division Supervisor serves as the lead administrator and coordinator of the Fairfield Police Department's School Safety program. The Supervisor is responsible for the overall management, oversight, and direction of School Safety Division operations, and serves as the primary liaison between the Fairfield Police Department and Fairfield Public Schools. This role ensures consistent communication, coordination, and alignment of school safety initiatives across all levels of the school community, including school administrators, district leadership, and other relevant stakeholders. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Assist in enhancing physical security measures and security procedures at all schools.
2. Serve as the primary point of contact and coordinate communication between the Fairfield Police Department and Fairfield Public Schools on matters related to school safety, including school administrators, district leadership, and other relevant stakeholders.
3. Regularly review and analyze calls for service to identify trends, emerging concerns, and individual student-related safety needs to inform School Safety Division operations.
4. Assign initial and/or follow-up criminal investigations to SSD personnel.
5. Review and approve arrests involving students, ensure the appropriateness of enforcement actions, and coordinate required notifications to school and district administration in accordance with this agreement, applicable law, and Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures, including notification to the Superintendent or designee of juvenile arrests as required by law.
6. Review and approve all investigations generated within the School Safety Division in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and Fairfield Police Department policies
7. Coordinate and collaborate with other divisions of the police department and partner agencies, including, but not limited to, the Patrol Division, Detective Division, Traffic Safety Unit, Fairfield Police Social Worker, Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and others, as needed.
8. Participate as an active member of the District School Climate Committee.

9. Maintain regular communication and engagement with Central Office staff, School Administrative Teams, and School Counseling Teams.
10. Regularly review and provide input on school emergency operations plans.
11. Oversee and support the planning and execution of crisis response drills and ensure such drills are conducted in accordance with established protocols, with participation in post-drill debriefings as appropriate.
12. Participate in and support periodic training for school administrators and staff on school safety and emergency response topics.
13. Participate in periodic school safety meetings with staff, students, and parent organizations (i.e., PTA).
14. Collaborate with Central Office staff to coordinate the dissemination of information to the school community regarding school safety matters, threats, and high-profile incidents occurring on or near school property.

III. Information Sharing

Student information, as well as access to relevant systems and data, may be shared between school administration and the School Safety Division (SSD), as appropriate and in coordination with one another, as permitted by applicable federal and state laws, including the Family Educational Records and Privacy Act (FERPA), when necessary to support school safety, threat assessment, and the overall well-being of students and the school community.

A. Goals

1. Predict and prevent violence on campus.
2. Identify students who are at risk of harming themselves or others.
3. Promote a safe, supportive, and effective learning environment.
4. Reduce youth criminal activity through early identification of at-risk behaviors.
5. Identify students and families with service needs and collaborate with school personnel and community partners to facilitate appropriate referrals, access to resources, and ongoing support, with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

B. Legal Considerations

1. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
2. Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and applicable Department of Justice (DOJ) guidance governing juvenile information sharing
3. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Personal Health Information (PHI)
4. Connecticut mandated reporter requirements

School officials are bound by certain FERPA restrictions when sharing student information with police. Police are bound by certain DOJ/CGS restrictions when sharing juvenile information with school officials. Both school officials and police are bound by certain HIPAA restrictions when sharing Personal Health Information (PHI). Any information shared shall be limited to that

which is necessary to support safety, legal compliance, and the purposes outlined in this agreement.

C. Directory Information

Directory information, as defined by Fairfield Public Schools (FPS) and consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, Sec. 99.37), may be disclosed to law enforcement without consent, provided that the parent community has been informed of FPS's definition of directory information and has been given the opportunity to opt out at the beginning of each school year, in accordance with Board of Education Policy #5220.

D. Health and Safety Emergencies (FERPA, Sec. 99.36)

Information sharing under this section should be conducted in a manner that supports timely intervention while respecting legal protections and the privacy of the individuals involved.

1. Schools may disclose information from educational records to law enforcement or other appropriate parties when such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of a student or other individuals, based on an articulable and significant threat under the totality of the circumstances. Determinations should consider available information and relevant warning signs indicating a potential threat to self or others.
2. When school personnel seek police counsel during a threat assessment (i.e., requesting information such as history of violence, past suicidal behaviors, or access to weapons), such consultation should be coordinated with, or include, the School Safety Division Supervisor whenever practicable, and *should occur as early as possible in the school's assessment process and/or prior to a final decision regarding student disposition and prior to release to a parent/guardian.*
3. When personal health information is a factor, observations of behavior should be shared rather than diagnoses or other protected health information.
4. Notification to law enforcement does not fulfill a school staff member's obligation as a mandated reporter to notify the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

E. Off Campus Conduct/Police Responsibilities to Share Juvenile Information

Information regarding juvenile arrests shall be shared in accordance with applicable Connecticut General Statutes and in a manner that supports school safety while maintaining required confidentiality protections.

1. Notification Requirements:

When a person age ten (10) to twenty-one (21) and enrolled in school is arrested for a felony, a class A misdemeanor, or a violation of Connecticut General Statutes § 53-206c (prohibition of the sale, carrying and brandishing of a facsimile firearm), the arresting law enforcement agency shall notify the Superintendent of Schools for the district in which the student resides of the identity of the person and the alleged offense.

- a. **Oral Notification:** Oral notification shall be made to the Superintendent or designee no later than the end of the next school day following the arrest.
- b. **Written Notification:** Written notification shall be provided to the Superintendent or designee within seventy-two (72) hours of the arrest and shall include a brief description of the incident.

2. Confidentiality and Record Maintenance:

- a. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain all written reports in a secure manner.
- b. Information concerning a person under eighteen (18) years of age shall be treated as confidential and handled in accordance with Sections 46b-124, 54-76l, and other applicable provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes.

3. Permitted Disclosure:

- a. The Superintendent or designee may disclose such information only to the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled, or to appropriate supervisory personnel of another school in which the student is known to be enrolled.
- b. The principal or designee may further disclose such information only to appropriate staff or consultants (e.g., school psychologists, social workers, or other support personnel) for the purpose of:
 - assessing potential risk to the student or others
 - implementing appropriate interventions or supports
 - addressing disciplinary considerations, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law

4. School-Based Response:

- a. If the arrest occurs during the school year, any assessment of risk or need shall be conducted as soon as practicable, but no later than the next school day.
- b. School officials shall use the information received to inform decisions related to student safety, support services, and school operations.

5. Participation in School Proceedings:

If an expulsion hearing is held pursuant to Section 10-233d of the Connecticut General Statutes, a representative of the Fairfield Police Department or appropriate law enforcement agency may testify and provide information related to the arrest, as requested by the Board of Education, hearing officer, school administration, or the student or their parent/guardian consistent with Sections 10-233d and 10-233h of the Connecticut General Statutes.

F. System Access and Information Sharing (Reserved)

The parties acknowledge the importance of appropriate access to school-based safety and security systems, including but not limited to camera systems, limited student information necessary to support school safety, and other relevant technologies, to support school safety, emergency response, and criminal investigations.

Authorized Fairfield Police Department personnel, including members of the School Safety Division, may be provided access to such systems and information, as appropriate, to support official law enforcement and public safety functions.

All access to and use of school-based systems and data shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law, Fairfield Public Schools policies, and Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures. Such access shall be limited to legitimate public safety purposes and handled in a manner that protects the privacy and security of students, staff, and school operations.

Requests for access to, or information derived from, school-based safety, security and other technology systems by Fairfield Police Department personnel not assigned to the School Safety Division shall be coordinated through the School Safety Division Supervisor.

Information obtained from such systems shall not be disseminated to non-School Safety Division personnel without the knowledge and approval of the School Safety Division Supervisor, except when required for legitimate law enforcement purposes consistent with applicable law and Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures.

The release, export, or upload of any school-based camera footage or related data to evidence systems shall be conducted only with the approval or direction of the School Safety Division Supervisor and in coordination with Fairfield Public Schools administration, in accordance with applicable law and established policies and procedures.

The Fairfield Police Department and Fairfield Public Schools will continue to collaborate to define and refine access, use, and data-sharing protocols to ensure appropriate oversight, accountability, and alignment with operational needs.

The parties acknowledge that once school-based information or camera footage is obtained and maintained as part of a Fairfield Police Department record or evidence, it may become subject to disclosure requirements under applicable law, including the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, which may differ from the confidentiality standards applicable to school records. All handling and release of such information shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law and established policies and procedures.

IV. Graduated Response Model for School-Based Incidents

Schools and law enforcement share responsibility for school safety and must work together with complementary policies and procedures to ensure a safe learning environment for students. This graduated response model strives to ensure a consistent response to incidents of student misbehavior and clarify the role of law enforcement in school disciplinary matters. The parties agree to the following:

1. The vast majority of student misconduct can be best addressed through classroom and in-school strategies and maintaining a positive climate within schools rather than by involvement of the justice community.
2. The response to school disruptions should be reasonable, consistent and fair with appropriate consideration of relevant factors such as the age of the student and the nature and severity of the incident.
3. Students should be held accountable for their actions through a graduated response to misconduct that provides a continuum of services and increasingly more severe sanctions for continued misbehavior.

4. Disruptive students should receive appropriate redirection and support from in-school and community resources prior to the consideration of suspension, expulsion, involvement of the police, or referral to court.
5. Clarifying the responsibilities of school and police personnel with regard to non-emergency disruptive behavior at school and school-related events promotes the best interests of the student, the school system, law enforcement and the community at large.
6. When appropriate and consistent with safety considerations and applicable law, alternatives to arrest should be considered, including the use of warnings, referrals to diversionary or intervention-based programs (such as Youth Diversion), and other measures intended to address underlying behavior and reduce further involvement with the juvenile justice system, in coordination with school administration.

A. Key Factors in Making Disciplinary Decisions

The parties agree that when determining consequences for students' disruptive behavior, the following factors shall be considered, if information on the factors is available:

1. Age, health, and disability or special education status of the student.
2. Prior conduct and record of behavior of the student.
3. Previous interventions with the student.
4. Student's willingness to repair the harm.
5. Parents' or guardians' willingness to address any identified issues.
6. Seriousness of the incident and degree of harm caused.

The parties agree that when determining consequences for student's disruptive behavior the following factors shall not be considered:

1. Race/ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and national origin of the student and family.
2. Economic status of the student and family.

B. Classroom Intervention

The classroom teacher plays a prominent role in guiding, developing and reinforcing appropriate student conduct and is acknowledged as the first line in implementing the school discipline code. As such, this model begins with a range of classroom management techniques that must be implemented prior to any other sanctions or interventions. Classroom intervention is managed by the teacher for behaviors that are passive and non-threatening such as dress code violations, and violations of classroom rules. School Resource Officers should not be involved at this level. More than three incidents of the same behavior, if not in the same day, could lead to school administrator intervention (see below). Classroom intervention options might include redirection, re-teaching, school climate initiatives, and moving seats; the teacher should initiate parental contact.

C. School Administration Intervention

Classroom interventions must be supported by school administrators who address more serious or repetitive behaviors and behaviors in school but outside of the classroom. Examples of behaviors at this level include repetitive patterns, defacing school property, truancy, threatening and behaviors in hallways, bathrooms, courtyards and school buses. Administration intervention options might include time in the office, after school detention, loss of privilege, reparation, and/or parent conference.

D. Assessment and Service Provision

When the behavior and needs of the student warrant, an assessment process and intervention with the use of school and community services is appropriate. This intervention is managed by the school administrator or a Student Assistance Team (SAT). Repetitive truancy or defiance of school rules, and behaviors that interfere with others, such as vandalism or harassment, belong at this level as well as misbehaving students who would benefit from service provision.

Assessment and service intervention options should include any Classroom or School Administration Interventions and might include referral to a Youth Diversion Team (YDT – formerly the Juvenile Review Board or JRB) or community service or program, suspension, expulsion or referral to court. Truant behavior should not lead to an out-of-school option. Police can be involved in their role on SAT's and JRB's.

E. Law Enforcement Intervention

The following charts and lists are intended to provide general guidance regarding school-based responses and law enforcement involvement. They are not all-inclusive and are designed to support a graduated, collaborative approach to addressing student behavior. Responses should be guided by the totality of the circumstances, including the nature and severity of the behavior, the student's age and developmental level, prior history, and any safety concerns.

School administrators retain primary responsibility for student discipline. School Resource Officers and other law enforcement personnel are not responsible for enforcing school rules or routine disciplinary matters, but may become involved when conduct rises to the level of a safety concern or potential criminal violation.

Intervention options may include school-based supports, behavioral health and social service referrals, and, when appropriate, law enforcement involvement. The application of these guidelines may vary based on the specific circumstances and remain subject to professional judgment and discretion.

MINOR/NON-CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	
Types of Behavior	Intervention Options
Conduct that does not constitute a criminal offense but may require school-based intervention and support. May include, but are not limited to: ▪ Inappropriate use of social media, text, email, or other electronic communication ▪ Suspected or confirmed use of alcohol, narcotics, or other regulated or controlled substances ▪ Bullying behavior or other misconduct that may be disruptive, concerning, or escalating, but <u>does not</u> rise to the level of a criminal violation, including: ○ Breach of Peace (non-criminal level conduct) ○ Disorderly Conduct (non-criminal level conduct) ○ Assault (minor or non-injurious conduct) ○ Harassment ○ Threatening behavior	<u>Informative Session</u> ▪ An SRO may discuss decision making, potential future legal ramifications and/or health ramifications, etc. ▪ The informative session is designed to be non-adversarial, with the officer acting in a role model and mentor capacity. These matters are generally addressed through school-based interventions, including behavioral supports, restorative practices, and administrative discipline.

DANGER TO SELF OR OTHERS	
Types of Behavior	Intervention Options
As indicated by verbal, written, or behavioral actions suggesting a credible risk of harm to self or others, including threats, expressions of self-harm, suicidal ideation, or actions indicating potential or imminent violence.	<u>Police Emergency Examination (C.G.S. §17a-503):</u> ▪ An SRO or responding officer will respond when appropriate. Police response is intended to de-escalate crisis situations and ensure the safety of all involved parties. ▪ When appropriate, a Police Emergency Examination Request may be completed, requiring transport to a medical facility for evaluation in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 17a-503. ▪ Further enforcement action may be taken if it is determined that certain behaviors within the student's control constitute a criminal violation. <u>School-Based Intervention:</u> ▪ School personnel, including school social workers, psychologists, counselors, nurses, and administrators, should be engaged as appropriate to assess and respond to the student's needs. ▪ Interventions may include risk assessment, counseling support, parent/guardian notification, and coordination with school-based or community resources. ▪ School-based intervention should occur concurrently with, or immediately following, law enforcement involvement, as appropriate. <u>Follow-Up and Support Services:</u> ▪ Follow-up by the Fairfield Police Department Social Worker, in coordination with school-based mental health personnel, may occur with the student and/or family. ▪ The goal of this follow-up is to assist in connecting the student and family with appropriate services, with an emphasis on stabilization, support, and prevention.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	
Types of Behavior	Intervention Options
Conduct that may constitute a violation of state law and may require law enforcement involvement. May include, but are not limited to: ▪ Breach of Peace ▪ Disorderly Conduct ▪ Assault ▪ Harassment ▪ Threatening ▪ Larceny ▪ Possession of Weapons ▪ Possession of Narcotics or Drug Paraphernalia ▪ Possession of any Illegal or Regulated Substance. School staff are not expected to determine conclusively whether a criminal violation has occurred, but should contact a School Resource Officer (SRO) or law enforcement if such conduct is suspected. In the event of an emergency or immediate safety concern, 911 should be called.	<u>Verbal Warning</u> ▪ Verbal Warnings will be documented in a police report and may serve as justification for more severe consequences for future offenses. <u>Juvenile Summons</u> ▪ The juvenile and parent will receive a summons to appear in court. Juvenile Review Board options will be determined by the Police Department after review of the arrest report.

SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENSE	
Types of Behavior	Intervention Options
As defined by Connecticut General Statutes §46b-120. (CTRL + Click to Open) May include, but are not limited to: ▪ Robbery ▪ Assault in the 1st or 2nd degree ▪ Sexual assault offenses ▪ Strangulation or suffocation ▪ Kidnapping or unlawful restraint ▪ Arson ▪ Burglary involving occupied structures ▪ Use, possession, or threatened use of a weapon ▪ Any felony offense involving serious physical injury or a credible threat of serious violence School staff should immediately notify a School Resource Officer (SRO) or law enforcement when such conduct is suspected. In the event of an emergency or immediate safety concern, 911 should be called.	<u>Juvenile Summons*</u> ▪ The juvenile and parent will receive a summons to appear in court. Juvenile Review Board options will be determined by the Police Department after review of the arrest report. <u>Custodial Arrest*</u> ▪ Arrangements will be made to take juvenile into physical custody by the least intrusive means possible for transport to the Fairfield Police Department. * Enforcement action may depend upon factors such as the severity and/or frequency of the offense, as well as the likelihood that the offense will occur again.

F. K-9 Use in Fairfield Public Schools

The Fairfield Police Department K-9 Unit may be utilized in Fairfield Public Schools for community engagement, educational demonstrations, special events, and other school-related activities intended to promote positive relationships and awareness.

Any use of K-9 units for law enforcement purposes, outside of active criminal investigations or exigent circumstances, shall be conducted in coordination with Fairfield Public Schools administration and in accordance with applicable law and Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures.

Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of the Fairfield Police Department to deploy K-9 units in response to active criminal investigations or exigent circumstances, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law.

G. Enforcement of Laws and Ordinances on School Property

Traffic laws, parking regulations, and other applicable laws and municipal ordinances are enforceable on public school property, including but not limited to parking lots, roadways, athletic fields, and other school grounds. This may include enforcement related to traffic safety, parking, use of school grounds, and other activities impacting the safety and orderly operation of school property.

Enforcement may be conducted by the Fairfield Police Department in coordination with school administration, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law and Fairfield Police Department policies and procedures.

H. FPS Employee Misconduct

When it is determined by a building administrator, central office administrator, or the human resources director that misconduct by an employee has risen to the level of a criminal violation, and such misconduct jeopardized, or had the potential to jeopardize the actual or perceived safety and/or security of students and/or other staff, such misconduct must be reported to the School Resource Officer (SRO) or, if an SRO is not immediately available, to the Fairfield Police Department. Such violations may include but are not limited to:

1. Breach of Peace
2. Threatening
3. Assault
4. Sexual Assault
5. Risk of Injury to or Impairing the Morals of a Minor
6. Destruction of School, Student, or Staff Property
7. Illegal Possession of Narcotics or Controlled Substances
8. Illegal Possession of Weapons

I. Summary

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), under the U.S. Department of Justice, provides guidance in its report "Sharing Information: A Guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Participation in Juvenile Justice Programs." This report serves as a resource for educators and law enforcement. Key principles include:

1. Maintaining safe schools requires strong partnerships and information sharing between schools and youth-serving agencies, including law enforcement, the court system, probation and parole, and child protective services.
2. Educators who observe early warning signs of delinquency or possess critical information regarding juveniles involved in the justice system can support effective intervention strategies through appropriate information sharing.
3. When a juvenile involved in the justice system returns to the school environment, timely communication between agencies allows schools to provide appropriate supports to promote student success.
4. Effective information sharing systems rely on active, two-way communication among agencies, with each entity contributing relevant information to support the safety and well-being of students.

In furtherance of federal guidance and state mandates, and for the purpose of enhancing communication and coordination between the Fairfield Police Department and Fairfield Public Schools, improving school safety and security, preventing acts of violence, and supporting delinquency prevention efforts, the parties agree to collaborate in accordance with the terms outlined in this agreement.

This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by all parties and shall remain in full force and effect for a period of one (1) year. The parties shall review this Agreement annually and may amend it by mutual written agreement.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto, intending to cooperate with one another, have executed this agreement as of the date set forth below.

 7/2/2026

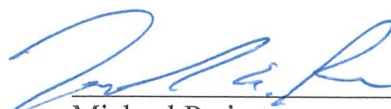
Date

Christine Vitale
First Selectperson
Town of Fairfield, Connecticut

 7/2/2026

Date

Michael Testani
Superintendent
Fairfield Public Schools
Town of Fairfield, Connecticut

 7/2/2026

Date

Michael Paris
Chief of Police
Fairfield Police Department
Town of Fairfield, Connecticut