



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

FC No.: 1104
Date: 11-24-14

If a provision of a regulation, departmental directive, rule, or procedure conflicts with a provision of the contract, the contract prevails except where the contract provision conflicts with State law or the Police Collective Bargaining Law. (FOP Contract, Article 61)

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I. Policy

The primary focus of the **School Resource Officer (SRO)** Program is to enhance **the safety and security of the** learning environment for students, staff, and the school community within Montgomery County, Maryland. Sworn uniformed police officers will serve as liaisons between the Montgomery County Department of Police (MCP) and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and private schools in the County. The **SRO program** is designed to be flexible enough so that it can be tailored to address the unique needs of each school.

II. Organization

The **SROs** will work under the supervision of the district lieutenants who will report to the District Commanders. The **SROs** will serve as coordinators and facilitators for the delivery of MCP programs and special services to MCPS within the six police districts in the county. The **SRO** program will be coordinated by the **Patrol Services Bureau Administrative lieutenant** who will report directly to the Chief of the **Patrol Services Bureau**.

III. Responsibilities

- A. **SROs will assist school staff in enhancing safety within their assigned high schools and serve as a liaison between the school system and MCP for school and police related concerns and incidents.**
- B. **SROs will act as a resource and assist with lock down/shelter in place drills, emergency preparedness, and safety awareness education to the high school population age groups.**
- C. **SROs** will serve as a point of contact to deliver MCP programs such as crime prevention, conflict resolution and mediation, drug and alcohol awareness, violence prevention, gang awareness, and community relations and outreach.
- D. **SROs** will maintain contact with MCP beat officers, **whose patrol area includes the schools, for the purpose of information sharing and generating discussions pertaining to community concerns.**
- E. **SROs** will coordinate the response of other MCP resources to school-related incidents.

- F. *SROs will assist with traffic safety and enforcement activities *in and around their assigned school areas.****
- G. *SROs will coordinate high school familiarization training (“walk-through”) for responding officers within their district on a bi-annual basis.***
- H. *SROs will coordinate assistance, when needed, at major school events such as athletic events, large dances, or other activities.***
- I. *SROs will meet **regularly** with parents, teachers, principals, other school administrators, and students to discuss issues of concern within the school.***
- J. *SROs will maintain contact with members of the Criminal Street Gang Unit, Special Investigations Division, to stay current on gang trends, share information, coordinate interventions, and support gang investigations.***

IV. Response and Investigations

- A. *SROs will respond to incidents at MCPS high schools that are reported by direct communication with MCPS staff or dispatched by ECC. SROs will monitor the radio and when available, assist for calls for service at the high schools in their district and incidents occurring around those schools. The responding SRO, beat officer, and/or the appropriate investigative unit having follow-up responsibility will investigate these calls for service at the direction of the patrol supervisor(s) (refer to FC 611, “Follow-up Investigation Responsibility”).***
- B. Notwithstanding their unique status in the schools, **SROs** are still bound by FC 512, “Arrest, Questioning, and Search of Students on School Property.”**

V. CALEA Standards: 44

VI. Proponent Unit: Patrol Services Bureau

VII. Cancellation

This directive cancels Function Code 1104, effective 01-14-04.

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police