

POLICE/SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

- A. Philosophy—The school has a unique opportunity to perceive and analyze the problems of children before they become a serious problem for society. With this unique opportunity, it is important that schools work closely with the police and other social agencies to prevent and resolve anti-social patterns of behavior. The Police/School Liaison Program (PSL) is established on a cooperative basis to work with our youth in detecting and preventing anti-social behavior through proper education, communication, and understanding between the school, police, youth and the family.

- B. The Police/School Liaison Program will serve the following general purposes:
 - 1. Prevention.
 - 2. Referral.
 - 3. Education.

- C. A more detailed description of the purposes of the Police/School Liaison Program is stated below:

PURPOSE 1: TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF FUTURE CRIME BY A CONCENTRATED CRIME PREVENTION EFFORT AIMED AT THE SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY LEVEL STUDENTS.

Objective A:

To give the students an opportunity to get acquainted with a police officer in an informal, non-authoritarian setting by placing a police/school liaison officer within schools in the district.

Objective B:

To allow any student, who so desires, to privately converse with a liaison officer conveniently at the school. Many students have personal questions relative to the law, the school, and the community which they may not care to air in a school setting.

Objective C:

To allow students the opportunity to discuss with the liaison officer conditions in the community which he/she feels have a negative effect on him/her.

Objective D:

To provide classroom presentations and discussion periods with students in the areas of mutual concern. To present film and slide programs relative to the above, along with appropriate field trips.

Objective E:

To provide for parent/student conferences in a school setting, rather than the police station which, in many cases, may be more comfortable for the student and parents alike.

Objective F:

To provide the opportunity to appropriately divert students from the juvenile justice system and to assure adequate follow-up to that diversion by the police/school liaison officer, if needed.

Objective G:

To provide an opportunity for other police officers to better understand the actions and problems of the youth in the community.

Objective H:

To provide teachers, administrators and other school officials information concerning the law and to answer other questions they may have about the juvenile justice system, where deemed appropriate.

Objective I:

To conduct classes and seminars for police officers concerning problems and perspectives of youth.

PURPOSE 2: TO INCREASE THE REPORTING OF CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST YOUTH AND THEIR PROPERTY; AND TO INCREASE THE REPORTING OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT.

Objective A:

To provide a convenient and confidential setting wherein a child may feel at ease in reporting crimes against himself/herself or his/her property.

Objective B:

The Police/School Liaison Officer will help youth deal with concerns brought to his/her attention in cooperation with other helping professionals.

Objective C:

The Police/School Liaison Officer will help educators become aware of reportable crimes against youth and will make or assist other educators in presentations pertaining to the reporting of these crimes.

Objective D:

The Police/School Liaison Officer will provide appropriate feedback information as to the disposition of cases referred to the police.

PURPOSE 3: TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF CRIMES COMMITTED IN SCHOOLS OR NEAR SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Objective A:

To provide preventive patrol in school areas to reduce loitering on the school premises and discourage drug and alcohol traffic, assaults, and other actions of anti-social behavior. (We cannot emphasize enough that the legal responsibilities of the Police/School Officer lie in the areas of direct violations of the law and that he/she will not be used as an arm of school discipline.)

Objective B:

To contact or assist any person living in, or any business person operating in school areas, who is having difficulty interacting with the students attending that particular school.

Objective C:

To inform merchants who serve school-age clientele of ways to prevent vandalism and shoplifting.

Objective D:

School officials will attempt to resolve inappropriate student behavior and or actions absent a real and immediate threat to student, teacher or public safety; incident involving public order offenses including disorderly conduct; disturbance/disruption of school or public assembly; trespass; loitering; profanity; and fighting that does not involve physical injury or a weapon, shall be considered school discipline issues to be handled by school officials, rather than by the school resource officer. In the case of a student being a repeat offender, the building principal or designee may request police involvement to address the incident.

PURPOSE 4: TO HELP YOUTH AND ADULTS VIEW THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A HELPING AGENCY WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND SERVE ALL CITIZENS.

Objective A:

To provide input from student and faculty to assist the police in establishing certain written police guidelines relative to handling of juvenile matters, especially in the area of student/police contacts within the school.

Objective B:

To enable the Police/School Liaison Officer (PSLO) to maintain regular contact with representatives of youth-serving agencies to coordinate prevention efforts.

Objective C:

To make presentations before community groups, service clubs, and parent groups, etc.

Objective D:

School officials or designee will make attempts to resolve school discipline matters before the school resource officer is involved unless deemed a threat to the immediate well-being of an individual's health or school community safety. Unless the immediate well-being of an individual's health and school community safety is jeopardized, Administrative Guideline 445, Section C, Interrogation of Suspects in School, will be followed.

ADOPTION DATE: March 10, 1997

REVISION DATE(S): May 9, 2005; July 24, 2023

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CROSS-REFERENCE: Administrative Guideline
Policy 347 Control, Maintenance, and Confidentiality of
Student Records
Policy/Administrative Guideline 445 Interrogations -
Student
Policy/Administrative Guideline 445.1 Student Interviews
by Police

LEGAL REFERENCE: Section 118.257 Wisconsin Statutes