

## WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS

5735

WELFARE/DISCIPLINE

School Resource Officer Program

### Philosophy for School Resource Officer

Within our society, the school holds a central place among agencies that affect the ideas and activities of children. Beyond the family, school is the first institution to have the opportunity to perceive and analyze the problems of children. It is logical, therefore, that if outward symptoms of anti-social behavior (delinquency) are discernible at the school level, then it is appropriate to implement a program aimed primarily at prevention of this behavior through education, communication, and understanding between the school/ youth/police and the community (i.e., School Resource Officer Program).

The concept of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program may be defined as a resource person and an educational aide in addition to being a law enforcement officer, who by definition, has an obligation to serve, protect, and uphold the law. It is felt by police, students, and educators alike, that the SRO should fulfill an important task as a resident friend and listener to youths with personal problems that they could bring to him/her. This role can be defined as one who could assist students in a variety of ways with problems that concern them. This role is to be carried on in cooperation rather than competition with authorized school officials.

The second role of the SRO is to be a resource person to and for the student, his/her family, the school, and the community.

The third role is being a referral agent. The SRO should be intimately acquainted with the kinds of help available at the local level to young people and their families. A major part of his/her helping function would be to get people in contact with helping agencies that can aid them in matters beyond the SRO's depth to solve. Frequently, this will involve a shared relationship with school officials and other community agencies.

The SRO may serve an educational function by assisting school staff in the provision of courses of study or programs designed to acquaint students with the law, the ways in which it operates on the local/state level, and how it touches their lives. The SRO is also available to parent groups in providing information to acquaint them with the law. Guidelines for SRO's school operations and activities will be disseminated via the Parent/ Student Handbook. A copy of this policy will be distributed through school newsletters and/or school handbooks. This policy will also be reviewed in homerooms.

### Guidelines for School Resource Officer (SRO)

#### I. School Visits

A. The SRO is scheduled to visit their assigned school(s) on a regular basis:

- (1) The SRO shall be regarded as a classroom resource person.
  - (2) Regular office hours are scheduled.
  - (3) Student interviews shall be scheduled as required by referrals.
  - (4) General visibility within the building(s) is expected.
  - (5) Attendance at extra-curricular activities as requested.
- B. While in the building(s), the SRO will cooperate with school officials. However, as a police officer, the SRO is subject to the directions of the Chief of Police.
- C. School meeting space will be provided.
- (1) Office hours are announced and posted.
  - (2) Students will be free to visit the SRO during free time and are free to make appointments.

II. Confidentiality of Information and Records:

- A. Adult students and parents/guardians can authorize the release of any information contained in the cumulative file or other school records to the SRO.
- B. Cumulative records will not be open to the SRO without prior approval of the parent/guardian or adult student unless otherwise so provided in Wisconsin Statutes 118.125 or 118.126.
- C. SRO's may share confidential information with officials of the school attended by the child in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 48.396(1) and 118.127(2).

III. Designated Official:

- A. The principal or assistant principal shall be the designated contact person between the school(s) and the SRO.
- B. SRO's assigned by the Wausau Police Department will be the designated police liaison between the Police Department and the assigned school.

Legal Ref.: Wisconsin Statutes 48.19(2), 48.396(1), 118.125, 118.126, 118.127(2),  
118.257

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