

PERRIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT – BOARD POLICY

Business and Noninstructional Operations

BP 3515.31(a)

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Governing Board is committed to protecting the safety of students and staff and the security of district property. The district shall develop a multi-tiered approach focused on the prevention of school violence and crime and the development of a positive school culture, which may include providing mental health services and other student support services, implementing restorative justice practices, implementing professional development addressing cultural competency, and when practicable, employing and/or contracting with a law enforcement agency to provide school resource officers (SROs) on school campuses and/or school activities.

If the Board elects to employ or contract with a law enforcement agency to provide SROs, the Board or its designee may define the number, duties, and expectations of SROs at district sites. In order to reduce unnecessary law enforcement interactions with students, the Superintendent or designee shall provide training to school staff regarding the role of SROs and the appropriate circumstances for contacting such officers.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)
(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)
(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)
(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)
(cf. 3515.5 - Sex Offender Notification)
(cf. 3515.7 - Firearms on School Grounds)
(cf. 3516.2 - Bomb Threats)
(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)
(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)
(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)
(cf. 5136 - Gangs)
(cf. 5141.5 - Mental Health)
(cf. 5142.1 - Identification and Reporting of Missing Children)
(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension by Law Enforcement)
(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

If the District contracts for a School Resource Officer, the Board shall approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local law enforcement agency which includes, at a minimum:

1. The purpose of the agreement
2. A clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the district, school site, law enforcement agency, and SROs, including responsibility for supervision of the SRO

3. The extent to which information will be shared between the district and law enforcement agency consistent with state and federal laws
4. Requirements for qualifications and training of SROs
5. Assigned hours of SRO duty in and around schools
6. Performance monitoring

The Board may expand on the above requirements to include more specific terms, such as acknowledgement of nondiscrimination requirements, training focused on eliminating disproportionalities in SRO contacts with students, and staffing of an SRO position when the assigned SRO is on leave.

Duties

SROs are duly sworn peace officers who are authorized to carry out their duties pursuant to state law.

Job duties of the SRO shall not include the handling of student code of conduct violations or routine student disciplinary matters that should be addressed by school administrators, or conduct that would be better addressed by mental health professionals.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

SROs shall be expected to collaborate with district staff in problem solving and, when circumstances warrant intervention with students, to use positive and restorative approaches in accordance with Penal Code 13651. SROs shall use tactics such as de-escalation techniques to mitigate the use of force in an educational setting and shall strictly adhere to the policy on minimum use of force pursuant to Government Code 7286.

When approved by the Superintendent or designee, an SRO may provide classroom presentations and/or parent/guardian education pertaining to safety issues and may link students, parents/guardians, and staff with resources and services.

Qualifications of Officers

Prior to beginning their assignment when possible, SROs shall complete specialized training in school policing, the unique experiences of the diverse populations within the school community, and the law enforcement agency's use of force policy.

Nondiscrimination

SROs shall not discriminate against or treat any person differently on the basis of race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual

orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

As directed by the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board disaggregated data on student interactions with SROs to evaluate the appropriateness of such interactions and ensure compliance with the prohibition against nondiscrimination. Such reports may include the number of arrests and referrals for prosecution, the number of reports provided to the school or district regarding student misconduct, or other actions taken by SROs with respect to individual students or others on campus.

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement practices to prevent disproportionality of student interactions with SROs based on student characteristics and to minimize the potential for referrals of students into the juvenile justice system.

Access to Records

SROs may have access to student records, or release student information to another person, agency, or organization, without written permission from the parent/guardian or adult student, if allowed or required by state or federal law, including the school official and health or safety emergency exceptions under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. (Education Code, § 49076; 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR §§ 99.1, 99.31) SROs are permitted access to student records to the extent that:

1. Parental permission is provided;
2. The SRO performs an institutional service or function for which the school or district would otherwise use employees (e.g., to ensure school safety);
3. The SRO is under the “direct control” of the school or district with respect to the use and maintenance of the education records (e.g., through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that establishes data use restrictions and data protection requirements); or
4. The circumstances meet the criteria specified in the school or district’s annual notification of FERPA rights for being school officials with legitimate educational interests in the education records. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(1)(i))

SROs shall not solicit or collect information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of students or their family members or provide assistance with immigration enforcement at district schools, except as may be required by state and/or federal law. (Education Code § 234.7)

(cf. 5145.13 - Response to Immigration Enforcement)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

234.7 Student protections relating to immigration and citizenship status

GOVERNMENT CODE

3300-3312 Public safety officers, rights and protections

7286-7286.5 Law enforcement use of force policies

8597-8598 Peace officers

12525.2 Reports of incidents involving peace officers

PENAL CODE

290.45 Sex offenders; authority of peace officers

626.9 Gun Free School Zone Act

646.91 Emergency protective order for stalking

830-832.9 Peace officers

13510-13519.10 Standards for recruitment and training

13651 Peace officers, job descriptions

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 34

10389 Public safety and community policing; definitions

Management Resources:

COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING PUBLICATIONS

POST Use of Force Standards and Guidelines, November 2020

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS PUBLICATIONS

Standards and Best Practices for School Resource Officers

To Protect and Educate: The School Resource Officer and the Prevention of Violence in Schools, 2012

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Guiding Principles: A Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and Discipline, 2014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PUBLICATIONS

School Resource Officers and School-Based Policing, Fact Sheet, 2019

Memorandum of Understanding Fact Sheet, 2017

Violence Prevention in Schools: Enhancement Through Law Enforcement Partnerships, 2017

Assigning Police Officers to Schools, 2013

WEB SITES

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss>

California School Resource Officers' Association: <https://csroa.org>

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training: <http://www.post.ca.gov>

National Association of School Resource Officers: <http://www.nasro.org>

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services:

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/supportingsafeschools>

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