

## **CHAPTER 8.00 – MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

### **8.061 – Safe School Officers**

#### **POLICY:**

1. The School District may enter into an agreement with local law enforcement to provide law enforcement and related services to the schools of Levy County, including charter schools. The Board will collaborate with charter schools governing boards located in the district to support access to all safe-school officer options available pursuant to Florida law.
2. School Resource Officers (SRO) must be certified law enforcement officers as defined in F.S. 943.10(1) and employed by a law enforcement agency as defined F.S.943.10(4). The purpose of the SRO program is to promote and assist school administrators with school-based security and safety. In addition, a goal of the program shall be to promote a positive image and respect for the law and law enforcement among young people.
3. A safe school officer must be present during the school day when the school is open for instruction. To determine the need for safe-school officers to be present outside of the regular day (i.e., before and after school, summer school, extracurricular activities or for school-sponsored events) the Board will consider the following factors: number of persons present, the ratio of staff members to students, and other safety measures available.

4. **Student ON campus incidents:**

Student discipline is the responsibility of the school administration. However, in instances where a crime may have been committed, or if there is a threat of injury to person or property, the SRO should be involved as the trained professional to handle such situations. If there is no safety threat, administration should take the lead in the school-based investigation with the assistance of the SRO. If practicable, the Principal or his designee shall be present during the questioning of students by SRO's concerning crimes committed. If a student is arrested and /or taken into custody, the SRO and school personnel shall utilize best efforts to immediately notify the parent/guardian. The SRO's shall use best efforts to comply with the policies set forth by the School Board of Levy County and procedures established by administration.

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5. Student OFF campus incidents:

The SRO shall not routinely conduct investigations or question students as to off campus incidents or crimes while serving as an SRO on school property. Other sheriff deputies or law enforcement shall be utilized for this function unless impracticable.

6. On a yearly basis, the SRO's and appropriate school administration shall meet for an "in service" to discuss the role of the SRO in the schools and to familiarize the SRO's with School Board policy and administrative procedures.

7. The Superintendent is responsible for notifying the Office of Safe Schools and the Board Chair immediately after, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after, the occurrence of the following:

- a. A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or disciplined; or
- b. A safe-school officer discharges his/her firearm in the exercise of his/her duties other than for training purposes.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED:

1001.42, 1006.12

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE:

6A-1.0018

HISTORY:

Adopted: 2/8/2022  
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