

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

This agreement is between the Rowan County Sheriff's Department and the Rowan County Board of Education.

We do hereby agree that this program is mutually beneficial to both parties for Rowan County Sheriff's deputies to be assigned to Rowan County Schools as School Resource Officers, hereafter, referred to as SRO's, as defined by Kentucky (SBI). It is the goal of both parties that one SRO be assigned to each school in the school district, when financing becomes available. It is understood by both parties that the SROs are employees of the Rowan County Sheriff's Department. It is further understood that the Rowan County Sheriff's Department is the official law enforcement agency of the Rowan County School District.

The purpose of this document is to facilitate a clear understanding of the roles, duties, and responsibilities of both parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding is set forth on this 14th day of June 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Rowan County Sheriff to:

- Provide all training required for the SRO, provide police vehicles, vehicle insurance, all maintenance, and repairs as well as fuel. All required uniforms and equipment.

It is the responsibility of the Rowan County School District to:

- Provide a private office in the school for the SRO. Provide a telephone. Provide a computer and printer. All required office furniture, i.e. desk, chair, secure filing cabinet. All office supplies required by the SRO.

The Rowan County Sheriff's Department recognizes and supports the need for safe schools and a safe learning environment for our youth. In furtherance of that goal, the Rowan County Sheriff's Department SROs shall work in partnership with school officials toward this end.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Through education and enforcement and by the cooperative efforts of the school, school staff, SROS, the students, the parents, the courts, the community, and the social services organizations, the SRO program strives to assist the schools with providing a safe school environment.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a relationship of respect and trust between the SRO and students.
2. Assistance and information sharing concerning problems and issues affecting the schools and students.
3. Education of students regarding law, law enforcement, and the courts in our society.
4. Protection and education of students involving molestation, abuse, neglect, involvement with adults, and other harmful influences.
5. Investigation of cases involving juveniles and use of effective alternatives to court whenever possible.
6. Prevention of crime or delinquent behavior by juveniles within the SRO's area of assignment.
7. Effective problem solving and liaison with communities in the school, which are affected in a negative way by the conduct of students.

It should be recognized that the SRO's:

Are encouraged to act and work as a school official when requested, and to work as a team with other school officials for the betterment of students and the school and the community.

Are encouraged to do extra-curricular activities as requested by the school administration. It is recognized by all parties that these assignments provide opportunities for crime prevention.

Any work by the SRO in this capacity will be approved by the Rowan County Sheriff's Department. The SRO will not be used as a replacement officer for off-duty/special duty assignments. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the school district to ensure adequate security at special events. All work performed after hours by the SRO shall be approved in advance by the Rowan County Sheriff's Department.

Are expected to keep the school principal or his/her designee informed regarding law enforcement actions which occur on school property and/or which may involve a student or employee. This will occur consistent with the laws of the state of Kentucky.

Are assigned deputy sheriffs as uniformed patrol officers. As such, their primary responsibilities are:

- a) Maintain order through the enforcement of local, state, and federal laws. Ensure a safe environment in the school.
- b) Are NOT to enforce or be involved in discipline except that it pertains to preventing a disruption that would place students, faculty, and staff at risk of harm. The SRO may take students to the Principal/Assistant Principal for violations of the Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline.
- c) Are governed by the rules, policies, procedures, and practices of the Rowan County Sheriff's Department.
- d) Are expected to attend all trainings, meetings, and appointments assigned by the Rowan County Sheriff's Department. It is recognized that some assignments will conflict with officer availability at the school during normal school hours. As much as possible, these conflicts will be kept to a minimum as much as possible, but the potential exists that such requirements will take precedence over school presence. The officer will strive to keep the school principal or his/her representative informed about his/her absence and/or activities as appropriate on a need-to-know basis.
- e) Are considered "non-exempt" employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act and subject to it for compensation and pay. Duty assignments in the summer months, when school is not in session, will be under the direction of the Rowan County Sheriff's Department. SROs may be required to work regular department duty assignments, at other times when school is not in session when directed by the Rowan County Sheriff's Department.
- f) Are at all times law enforcement officers. Officers may make classroom presentations on related topics when requested and available. They will also work with families, students, and school staff with counseling and guidance efforts when requested and appropriate. All parties encourage teamwork, partnerships, cooperation, and coordination between the SROs, their supervisors, and the school administration and staff, as well as the community.
- g) SROs, school administration, and a supervisor from the Rowan County Sheriff's Department will meet periodically to determine goals, objectives, and effectiveness of the program.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR SROs

Officers will be selected by means of a joint selection committee, comprised of the school district, staff and sheriffs office staff. The selection committee will make recommendations to the sheriff.

While the sheriff will duly consider the committee's recommendation, selection of each school a resource officer is within the sole discretion of the Rowan County Sheriff.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

The School Resource Officer Program will be assessed annually. The assessment will consist of information from the Rowan County Board of Education and Rowan County Sheriff's Department.

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective July 1, 2024, and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2025.

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

Either party may terminate this agreement upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.

MODIFICATIONS TO AGREEMENT

No modifications of this agreement shall be valid or binding unless the modification is in writing, dated, and signed by both parties.

Executed this 14 day of June 2024

Rowan County School District

Date _____

Superintendent

_____

Date 6/14/24

Rowan County Sheriff

EXHIBIT SRO FUNDING-Financing SRO Program

The cost of the SRO Program shall be paid by the parties as set forth in this Exhibit.

Funding for the SRO Program shall be made with Federal, State, and Local funds as they become available. Funding shall be on a shared basis as agreed by both parties.