



# THE FACT SHEET

## *An Information Resource*

### VOLUME II

**DATE: Thursday, June 21, 2018**

**Topic: School Resource Officers**

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) preference is to retain and expand the current School Resource Officer (SRO) program as part of the District's overall safety and security efforts. Under the SRO program, BCPS partners with local municipalities and the Broward Sheriff's Office to assign certified law enforcement officers at schools.

New state legislative requirements (SB 7026) mandate all Florida school districts have an SRO or school safety officer at each school at the start of the 2018/19 school year. In the event a municipal partner is unable to support the District's current SRO program due to financial reasons or officer availability, the District acknowledges the potential need to participate in the Guardian Program to meet the new state requirements. The Guardian Program allows certain school employees to be armed on campus, after receiving 144 hours of training from the sheriff's office and passing a psychological evaluation and drug test.

On June 11, 2018, the Broward County School Board held a workshop regarding the SRO program. [Watch and listen to the discussion.](#)

General Information on the SRO Program:

- The District's SRO program was launched more than 20 years ago at six middle schools as part of a pilot program with the Broward Sheriff's Office. The program has continued to grow as additional law enforcement agencies and municipalities joined.
- BCPS currently has SRO agreements with 13 independent municipalities and the Broward Sheriff's Office, which serves an additional 10 municipalities.
- Since 2011, BCPS has added an additional 35 SROs, bringing the number of SROs to 166.
- The District's annual cost to support the SRO program is approximately \$7.6 million. In 2017/18, the total SRO program cost (District's funding plus funding from municipalities) was approximately \$26 million.



- BCPS currently utilizes two SRO program models:
  - The Broward Sheriff's Office and many other municipalities employ a full-time, year-round certified law enforcement deputy/officer.
  - Other municipalities employ a seasonal, certified law enforcement officer who only works during the term of the SRO agreement.
- According to the SRO agreement, SROs do not intervene in regular school discipline nor do they function as security officers. Their primary responsibility is to engage in the performance of law enforcement functions within the school setting and provide assistance in protecting and securing the school and its occupants. Additionally, SROs are expected to help identify and prevent juvenile delinquency, assist in the development of positive student concepts of law enforcement and provide assistance to victims of crimes in the school setting.
- In addition to SROs, BCPS currently employs 423 security personnel including 251 campus monitors, 141 security specialists, 17 Special Investigative Unit (SIU) detectives, eight building security personnel and six console viewers at a cost of approximately \$14.4 million annually.
- While SROs are certified law enforcement personnel, campus monitors are not required to have any official law enforcement training. Campus monitors are trained to watch and report serious disturbances to campus administrators.
- Broward County Public Schools SIU provides support in ensuring safety for all students attending BCPS. Specifically, the SIU assesses internal and external threats, supports effective disciplinary policies, facilitates partnerships between educators and law enforcement, and works with families to maintain positive school climates.