

### **School Resource Officer Program**

The school-resource officer program is a cooperative effort between the Spearfish Police Department and the Spearfish School District.

The goal of the SRO program is to provide a safe learning environment in our schools, provide valuable resources to school staff, foster a positive relationship with our District's youth, and develop strategies to resolve problems affecting our youth with the goal of protecting every child so they can reach their fullest potential.

#### **1. School Resource Officer Duties and Department Responsibilities.**

- 1.1. The School Resource Officer (hereinafter "SRO") will work to protect the school environment and work to maintain an atmosphere where teachers feel safe to teach and students feel safe to learn. The SRO will work to maintain schools that are free of illegal drugs, alcohol, violence, weapons, and gang activity.
- 1.2. The SRO, in cooperation with the District and its staff, will strive to provide a secure school facility and will coordinate safety efforts between the Department and the District.
- 1.3. The Department will respond when a student is suspected of or has been charged with a criminal offense as provided by Spearfish City Ordinance, South Dakota Codified Law, or federal law. The SRO shall not take any law enforcement action against any student for violations of school rules only and should not be involved in matters of school discipline.
- 1.4. The SRO will provide a classroom resource for law education using approved materials and as a mentor and resource for students, staff, parents, and the community. The SRO will attempt to break down barriers between law enforcement and youth by establishing communication and understanding about the legal system. SROs will provide law-related education and crime prevention to students and school staff when requested.
- 1.5. The SRO will make appearances before staff, students, parents, and other groups associated with the District as a speaker on a variety of requested topics, including drug and alcohol abuse.
- 1.6. Each SRO may be assigned additional duties to include, but not limited to, school safety programming and coverage for other schools in the City of Spearfish as needed. These assignments or numbers can be adjusted annually or as needed by the Department. The decision as to which officer is assigned to each school will be decided by the Department with collaboration from the District. The Department will assign SROs to work in the schools during the school year.
- 1.7. The SRO will share information with District officials about persons or conditions that pertain to campus safety concerns. The SROs shall assist District officials in developing plans and strategies to prevent or minimize dangerous situations.

**Spearfish School District 40-2**

**4000 Personnel**

Board Policy

Code 4375

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1.8. The SRO must coordinate with District officials and seek permission, guidance, and advice prior to enacting any programs within the schools.

1.9. The SRO will wear Department-approved uniforms, business professional attire, or business casual attire with appropriate logos and name badges depending on the time of school year, the type of school activity or program, and the requests of the District or Department. The SRO shall wear their Department-issued duty weapons in accordance with Department policy.

Subject to FERPA, the SRO will be actively involved in investigating crimes originating on a District facility when possible.

Adopted July 14, 2014  
Revised January 9, 2023