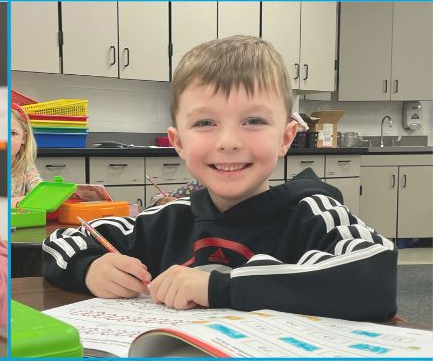
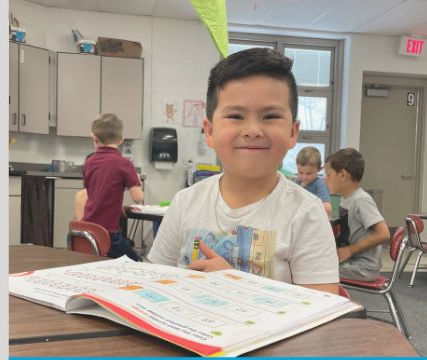


Part 2: School Resource Officers

A service for District 25 and the
Arlington Heights community.

June 2023



STRATEGIC PLAN | 21-25

Our mission is to:

empower an
inclusive, diverse
community of
learners to innovate
and thrive as global
citizens.



OUR GOALS & STRATEGIES

This presentation falls under the:

1. Student Achievement Goal
2. Family & Community Goal
3. Learning Environment Goal
4. High-Quality Staff Goal
5. Stewardship of Resources Goal



FAMILY & COMMUNITY GOAL

Strengthen family and community relationships to enhance learning, teaching, and partnerships.

Strategies that need attention to achieve this goal at a higher level:

Improve classroom, school and district communications, collaboration, and communication with our families and community to **enhance external relationships, trust, respect, commitment, engagement and satisfaction.**

Develop **effective partnerships with community agencies, higher education and District 214.**





School Resource Officers (SRO)

This presentation will cover:

1. What is a School Resource Officer (SRO)?
2. Village of Arlington Heights/District 25 Partnership
3. 2023-2024 Partnership, Proposed
4. Resources
5. Board of Education Options

A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a large, bold number '5' in white, set against a dark grey background. The '5' is partially enclosed by a blue and grey geometric shape that resembles a school building or a stylized letter 'A'. A thick, dark grey circular arc frames the top and right sides of the graphic.

What is a School Resource Officer (SRO)?

1. The goals of well-rounded SRO programs include providing safe learning environments in schools, providing valuable resources for school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth, and protecting ALL students so they can reach their full potential. NASRO considers it a best practice to use a “triad concept” to define the three roles of SROs: educator, informal counselor/mentor, and law enforcement officer.

Village & District Current Partnership



- 2 full time SRO positions (increased after many years of 1 SRO)
- Village of Arlington Heights pays 100% of SRO compensation (salary & benefits)
- Serve 19 Arlington Heights schools
 - support 4 additional schools that have full-time SROs
 - includes all 9 D25 schools
 - spend significant time at South and Thomas due to large school enrollment

2023 – 2024 Partnership, Proposed



2 full time SRO positions

- Village of Arlington Heights pays 100% of SRO compensation

Serve 17 Arlington Heights schools

- Support 6 more with full-time SROs
- Includes 7 D25 elementary



2 full time SRO positions

- District 25 pays 100% of SRO salary (\$111,000 each)
- Village of Arlington Heights pays 100% of SRO benefits

Assigned to D25 middle schools only

Present when students are present

Resources & Research



- Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board
- National Association of School Resource Officers
- National PTA
- American School Counselor Association
- National Association of School Psychologists
- School Social Work Association of America
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- Everytown Research & Policy (via Moms Demand Action)
- United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center
- United States Department of Homeland Security

Resources & Research



- Definitive research is difficult to find. There are studies that support the use of SROs and studies that demonstrate negative impacts of SROs.
- It is important to consider the context of each piece of research to ensure that a captured phrase is correctly interpreted.
- The District 25/AHPD Partnership's primary purpose is school-to-community service through positive police-student relationships, but SRO-related research is most often focused on student discipline and/or school shooter incidents.



- Public Act 100-984; agreements between school districts and local law enforcement agencies must be in writing (i.e., MOU).
- SRO must be certified as having completed the necessary course of instruction. This certificate may be obtained by completing the Board's [40-hour curriculum] course
 - General SRO Information
 - Juvenile Law
 - Officer & Youth Interactions
 - School Threat Response
- SRO certificate is valid for 2 years, and must be renewed

National PTA



- National PTA recognizes that school safety is a multi-faceted issue with no one clear solution for each community. . . any decision regarding physical security measures must be locally determined, collaborative, and specifically include input from students, parents, families, educators, school leaders and the community.
- National PTA believes . . . if the decision is made to have a SRO . . . there must be **clearly defined memorandum of understanding** between the law enforcement agency and the school that articulates the role of the SRO.

A Framework for Safe & Successful Schools



- Schools should carefully weigh the unique needs of their communities when determining the need to hire additional security personnel or SROs.
- It is important to recognize that SROs differ from other school security personnel or armed guards. SROs are commissioned law enforcement officers who are specially trained to work within the school community to help implement school safety initiatives as part of the school safety leadership team.
- [if the role is utilized], SROs should be integral participants in school life and student learning

National Association of SROs



- We endorse a **collaborative approach** to school safety. Teachers, administrator, SROs, counselors, and other mental health professionals, and students must all work together to create a safe environment
- **Carefully selected, specially trained SROs who follow NASRO's best practices do not arrest students for disciplinary issues** that would be handled by teachers or administrators if the SROs were not there.
- Despite the fact that the prevalence of SRO programs has continued to rise, juvenile arrests declined by 73% since 1996 per the US Dept of Justice.



- SROs don't stop school shootings but can harm students and criminalize typical adolescent behavior
- The practice of policing in schools, including the traditional SRO model, has not been shown to reduce school shooting deaths. Partnership with law enforcement and security personnel in schools both certainly play vital roles in school safety. However, they must be used with training and guardrails to make sure they are making schools safe places for all teachers and students.



- .. three types of negative effects: criminalizing students, repercussions on student learning, and negative impact on students from historically marginalized groups, including students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ students.
 - In some school districts, police officers may receive additional training to equip them for working specifically with children. But many do not, resulting in increases in types of disciplinary actions and criminalizing measures.
 - [Having armed police officers in schools] can increase chronic absenteeism
 - Marginalized students have higher rates of discipline by school police



- **Invest in proven school interventions**, such as crisis assessment/prevention programs, emergency planning, robust mental health support for students in crisis, and building a trusting school environment where students are willing to come forward when they hear something concerning
- In districts where schools choose to have the presence of some sort of security . . . have an exclusively protective role and be integrated within the school community, be answerable directly to school leaders, and receive training as peace officers with extensive focus on interacting with the school population and de-escalation and minimum use of force techniques.



- 10 key findings and implications in their report on *Averting Target School Violence*. #6 is that SROs play an important role in school violence prevention.
- 67% of schools in the study where violence was averted had full or part-time SROs with them playing a role in averting 31% of the attacks.



Board of Education Options

1. Maintain current D25/AHPD partnership
2. Expand on partnership per AHPD proposal
3. Pilot a modified partnership
 - a. 1.0 FTE split between middle schools
 - b. Collect data during 23-24 school year
4. Gather additional information



QUESTIONS?