



# Sheriffs in Schools: COC Virtual Conference

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## SRD's scope of work, responsibilities, protocols, and procedures outlined by LASD or school districts

- School officials and senior leadership gave different descriptions of the role and responsibility of school resource officers (SROs), reporting mechanisms and data tracking, and how referrals are made.
- These inconsistencies reflect an overall lack of clear policies and procedures to guide schools in the referral of students to the SRO.
- Service agreement between the district and the LASD does not include any details on the actual scope of work or services SROs are to perform.

## SRD program best practices for staffing qualifications, engagement, and specialized training

- There is a 12 hour training by LASD, which includes no trauma informed practices.
- AVUHSD should have some input on how LASD deals with minors.

## Data on SRD program outcomes, instances of effectiveness or areas where the program has fallen short

- Underreporting by sites to Civil Rights Data Collection skews data
  - This review identified a total of 354 unduplicated law enforcement referrals, which is 82.6% more law enforcement referrals than reported as part of the CRDC.
- Black students show the highest risk of law enforcement referrals for all nondisabled students and a risk ratio of 3.68
- Students with disability 3.7% of law enforcement referrals. This risk, when compared to the risk of general education students (1.2%), results in a risk ratio of 3.19.
- Black SWDs are nearly five times more likely to be referred to law enforcement than SWDs from all other racial/ethnic groups.
  - Black SWDs make up 61.4% of all law enforcement referrals

## Data on SRD program outcomes, instances of effectiveness or areas where the program has fallen short

- The District provided a list of 27 students arrested, taken into custody and removed, consisting of 12 general education and 15 special education students.
  - A comparison of list provided showed 20 of the students reported as being removed failing to appear on the law enforcement list.
  - Therefore, a total of 34 removals could be verified, with Black students with and without disabilities making up over half (55.9%) of these removals and Black SWDs comprising of 60.0% of all SWDs removed.

## Data on SRD program outcomes, instances of effectiveness or areas where the program has fallen short

- Reporting inconsistencies obscure the true practices of schools related to law enforcement referrals, arrests, and removals.
  - For example, one SWD listed on the law enforcement referral file for special education students was listed as having a student conference only; however, the suspension documents included a BER and incident report for this student that indicated the student had been restrained, arrested, and taken into custody for an incident matching the same date of the law enforcement referral list.
  - Although the student appeared on the removal list, it was for an incident in May, but the unreported incident for which he was restrained, arrested and taken into custody occurred in August.

## Guidance for implementing more effective security precautions, while not deterring student learning

- a. Providing access to activities during non instructional times (break, lunch)
  - i. Basketball tournaments
  - ii. Games and activities
  - iii. Programs and presentations
- b. Conflict Resolution
  - i. Peer mentorship
  - ii. Mediated discussion
- c. Early Identification of students for targeted assistance and mentorship
- d. Increased training in deescalation tactics campus wide
- e. Presence of Officer can be triggering
  - i. Cops off campus
  - ii. Do not wear police uniform
  - iii. Stay around the perimeter of the school
  - iv. Clearly define SRD role

## Areas to differentiate the allocation of duties related to perimeter security, disciplinary-related incidents, and law enforcement matters

- There is only vague language in regards to SRO's responsibility for perimeter security or disciplinary related incidents, though they have power to intervene
- They are only responsible for arresting students
- Campus security primarily handles perimeter security
- Disciplinary consequences are generally given out by teachers or administrators, officers escalate disciplinary infractions to criminal offenses



## Process for school staff to initiate calls for service, and identify common reasons why school staff call for SRD intervention

- Staff generally do not call SRD.
- Staff can send students to security, the Student Success Center or referred to administration.
- Students are generally only turned over to the deputy by campus security or administration if they are suspected of breaking the law or to be arrested.
- There have been reports of teachers calling for security and they show up with the SRD, thus potentially escalating the behavior to a criminal offense.

## Complaint process and opportunities for program feedback

- There is currently no complaint process available on the website.
- The community can complain about district employees but not the sheriffs.
- There should be a process to complain about the SRD at the school district.
- There should also be a process as to which students and their parents are informed of their rights and legal repercussions to infractions.

## Procedures for deputy retraining, discipline, and rotation

- Deputies are LASD employees at the school site.
- The officer is trained by the LASD not the school district.
- The school administration does not discipline the officer.

## Improvements that can be made to the program/ Improve student equity

- conduct a full audit of relevant data (e.g., suspension notice forms, incident reports) to determine the extent of law enforcement referrals and restraints •
- reprioritize resources to address the academic, social emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of students over campus security and SRO programs
- establish a memorandum of understanding with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department that defines and limits the scope of SRO responsibilities, mandates relevant trainings, and includes an evaluation and oversight mechanism

## Improvements that can be made to the program/Improve student equity

- AVUHSD website should provide a process to complain about SRD
- Students and families need to be educated on their rights
- SRD should wear body cameras working on high school campus
- require trainings in various areas, such as crisis response and de-escalation strategies, alternatives to suspensions and restorative practices, data entry procedures, racial bias including implicit bias, disability related-behaviors, and manifestation determination review best practice

## Related areas

- Antelope Valley Sheriff's have been in violation of Dept. of Justice monitors for years and there is no indication they will change
- LASD has a rampant gang problem
- AVUHSD should question whether they should contract with them at all
- Campus security should be in this conversation as well as the security and SRD compliment each other