Policy KLGA School Resource Officers

In order to provide a safe learning environment for all students, the board supports the use of school resource officers to expand school safety efforts and to conduct community policing services in and around the schools.

Definition
A school resource officer is a sworn law enforcement officer who has completed the state-approved basic course of instruction and is assigned to the school district to act as a law enforcement officer.

Jurisdiction
School administrators and staff will have the primary responsibility for maintaining proper order in schools and for disciplining students for violations of board policies and school rules. A school resource officer is not a school disciplinarian and will not ordinarily be requested or permitted to intervene in school discipline matters unless authorized by the district code of conduct (Level III violations for which law enforcement involvement is required). School administrators will notify law enforcement if a student engages in alleged conduct that would result in a Level III (Criminal Conduct) offense. The administrator or other school officials may refer a Level II (Disruptive Conduct) offense to the school resource officer or other local law enforcement authorities if the conduct rises to a level of criminality, or if the conduct presents an immediate safety risk to self or others, or the conduct is the third or subsequent act which rises to a level of criminality in that school year.

School administrators must also contact law enforcement consistent with S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-24-60, which requires that:

In addition to other provisions required by law or by regulation of the State Board of Education, school administrators must contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging or has engaged in activities on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity which may result or results in injury or serious threat of injury to the person or to another person or his property as defined in local board policy.

If an administrator receives reliable information that a student has engaged in conduct described in the preceding two paragraphs, the administrator will immediately contact the school resource officer, or local law enforcement authorities if the school resource
The school resource officer is unavailable or circumstances warrant otherwise. When a referral to law enforcement is required, the school resource officer will be the first line of contact for local law enforcement to ensure that the matter is resolved promptly to decrease significant interruption to the learning process.

The school resource officer is granted statewide jurisdiction to arrest any persons committing crimes in connection with a school activity or school-sponsored event, and he/she will be called immediately to handle a disturbance or emergency regarding a visitor or employee who disrupts the learning environment or school activity.

Roles and Responsibilities
As law enforcement, a school resource officer’s roles and responsibilities in the school setting will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Establish and maintain a close partnership with the school administration and staff to maintain a safe and constructive learning environment.
- Enforce local, state, and federal laws.
- Serve as a resource to administrators and staff concerning law enforcement and child welfare issues.
- Serve as a liaison between the schools and the Richland County Sheriff’s Department in addressing issues of concern to both entities.
- Develop educational programs and activities on topics such as crime prevention that will increase a student’s knowledge of and respect for the law and the function of law enforcement agency programs.
- Assist in emergency crisis planning and building security matters including, but not limited to, conducting security inspections to deter criminal or delinquent activities.
- Provide consultation and support to improve school/law enforcement collaboration.

Memorandum of Understanding
The roles and responsibilities listed above are in addition to any outlined in the requisite memorandum of understanding (MOU) executed between the district and the local law enforcement agency that employs the school resource officer. Prior to the placement of a school resource officer in a school district, a MOU must be executed which defines the role of the district, individual schools, local law enforcement agencies, school administration, and the school resource officer. At the beginning of each school year, the district administration will provide the school administration with a copy of the MOU, and review it with the school administration and with the school resource officer.
beginning of each school year, district administration will review the terms of the MOU with, and provide a copy to, both the building-level administration and the school resource officer.

Adopted 1/9/18; Revised 4/30/19, ^

Legal References:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 5-7-12 - School resource officer definition and jurisdiction.
2. Section 16-17-420 - School disturbances by nonstudents; penalties.
3. Section 59-24-60 - Requires administrators to contact law enforcement.

State Board of Education Regulations:

R43-210 - School resource officers.
R43-243 - Special education discipline guidelines.
R43-279 - Minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.