

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) recognizes the need for a comprehensive community engagement process that offers the community a meaningful opportunity to provide input into CPD policies. Please use the following information to guide your feedback on the CPD policy related to **School Resource Officers (SRO)**.

BACKGROUND

The agreement between the State of Illinois and City of Chicago (Consent Decree) requires that CPD “develop a policy that clearly defines the role of officers assigned to work in CPS schools” (§40). In the Spring of 2019, CPD held approximately 20 community-based meetings to engage various stakeholders, including students, parents, school staff, community members, and current CPD officers assigned to work in schools, and solicited feedback on CPD's existing policies. CPD also reviewed applicable laws, operational practices from other agencies, and other published research, including recommendations from the Department of Justice Community-Orientated Policing Services (COPS) and National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO).

Current CPD Policy (available publicly at <http://directives.chicagopolice.org>)

- S04-01-02 “School Resource Officers and Investigations at Chicago Public Schools,” issued on 29 August 2019, was recently revised based on the previous community engagement and research.
- CPD is committed to working with Chicago Public Schools to enforce the law and protect students, employees, guests, property, and the school community and dedicated to providing the highest quality of school resource officers to promote safer schools and safer students by using specific selection, training, assignment, and evaluation processes.
- CPD has the responsibility to address and respond to public safety concerns; criminal activity, violence, and other law-enforcement-related incidents; and concerns of the school community through a comprehensive and cooperative problem-solving process. CPD officers will NOT engage in the administration of discipline or involve themselves in disciplinary or classroom disorder situations unless required to prevent criminal activity or to protect students, employees, guests, or property.

KEY POLICY TOPICS

- Role of CPD officers who work in CPS schools, including student and victim assistance and services.
- Criteria and process for the selection of School Resource Officers, including minimum and desired qualifications.
- Specific training required to serve as a CPD School Resource Officer, including initial and refresher training.
- Assignment of SROs to schools, including fixed posts and roving patrols.
- Supervision of SROs at the district-level and management of the SRO program Department-wide.
- Criminal investigations involving CPS students and at CPS facilities and campuses.
- Data collection and publication requirements on CPD and SRO activities at CPS Schools.
- Role of CPS administration, principals, and Local School Councils on the CPD’s SRO program.

CPD anticipates gathering and utilizing the feedback provided via the community engagement process to develop a comprehensive policy that is inclusive of and reflects the needs and expectations of both the community and CPD. CPD's policy development process will also include the public posting of proposed policies for comments on CPD's website (www.chicagopolice.org) prior to implementation.