JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	10-05 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: S.R.O./Rise Above Programs	**REVIEW MONTH: October**
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/14/2019	**ACTION DATE:**
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: 11/13/2011	**AMEND DATE: 11/14/2019**
ACCREDITATION INDEX: 44.2.4	**APPROVED:** Richard A. Pearson **Chief of Police**

I. POLICY

The Rise Above and School Resource Officer programs are components of the department's overall juvenile program. Both programs focus on the prevention of delinquency through classroom guidance on ethical issues. (44.2.4) The Rise Above and S.R.O. officers are assigned to the Crime Prevention Unit of the Support Services Bureau.

II. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide guidance for School Resource Officers (SRO) assigned and/or responding to calls for service in dealing with incidents on school property (during school hours and during school-sanctioned events).

III. PROCEDURE:

A. Rise Above (44.2.4)

1. Three officers are assigned full time duties as Rise Above instructors during the school calendar year. The officers present Rise Above programs in the 5th grade and conduct other programs in the schools for grades K through 12.

2. Rise Above Officers will be trained to present the program by Joplin School District educational coaches and current Rise Above instructors.

3. Rise Above Officers always wear the department's full uniform and must always be prepared to respond to emergencies.

4. The Rise Above officers may be re-assigned to patrol or enforcement duties during periods when school is not in session.

B. School Resource Officer Program (S.R.O.) (44.2.4)

1. Responding to calls for service or conducting investigations on school property requires understanding the limitations and requirements placed on law enforcement officers by law and the responsibility of school authorities for supervision of children under their care. The Department will conduct investigations and related police business on school property in conformance with accepted legal practices such as the Safe Schools Act of Missouri and with the recognition of the authority and responsibility of school officials to manage the school environment.

2. The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program focuses on the prevention of juvenile delinquency through frequent contacts with students and through programs specifically

developed for junior high and high school students. This program is aimed at enhancing the relationship between law enforcement and students, presenting information to students on various crime prevention issues, and identifying and counseling problem youths there by diverting youths from the juvenile justice system. Through these activities, the SRO program will help students, parents and educators develop a better understanding of the role of the law enforcement officer and the program will ensure the safe and secure learning environment that our children deserve. (44.2.4)

3. Basic Qualifications

   a. The SRO must possess enough knowledge of patrol and general law enforcement techniques.

   b. Must possess a high level of problem-solving ability, self-initiative and the ability and willingness to work most of the time without direct supervision.

   c. Shall successfully complete an assigned School Resource Officer Training Program, before or as soon as possible after starting SRO duties.

   d. Must possess enough knowledge of the applicable Federal and State Laws, along with the local City and County ordinances. The SRO must also familiarize themselves with the School District policies.

   e. Must set a good example for students (on and off duty) and possess the temperament and good communications skills that would enable the officer to function effectively within the school community.

4. Duties of the SRO (44.2.4)

   a. To protect the lives and property of all persons present on the school property, as well as protecting school property and city owned property.

   b. To enforce Federal, State and Local Laws (or Ordinances), and to assist school officials with enforcement of applicable school policies when applicable.

   c. To investigate criminal activity committed on school property or involving students assigned to the officer's school. SRO's will not be utilized as disciplinarians. They can assist school administration as appropriate.

   d. Counsel students in special situations as requested by school officials or become a confidential source of counseling when requested by the student.

   e. Answer questions students may have about State Statutes and Local Laws.

   f. Assist Department Officers or officers from other jurisdictions with their investigations concerning students attending the SRO's assigned school.

   g. To act as an instructor in specialized, short-term programs at the school's request. Prior to conducting a classroom presentation, the SRO shall develop a lesson plan for review and approval.

   h. When requested by the school principal, the SRO shall make themselves available to attend parent/faculty meetings to solicit support and understanding of the SRO program.

i. The SRO shall become familiar with all community agencies which offer assistance to youths and their families such as mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, and alcohol treatment centers etc.

j. Assist the principal in developing plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations.

k. Take appropriate law enforcement action as required. Should an interview need to be conducted, the SRO shall adhere to police policy and procedures.

l. The SRO may be assigned investigations relating to criminal activities provided the activity involves a student attending the SRO's assigned school.

m. Although the SRO is assigned to a school, the police department may call upon them to perform other duties or attend training which would require that SRO to be away from school. It is the SRO's responsibility to notify their school of the projected absence.

n. When an SRO does not report for work for any reason, it is the SRO's responsibility to contact their assigned school as well as the Department.

5. Chain of Command

a. The SRO is the employee of the Joplin Police Department and will follow the chain of command as set forth in the Department policy and procedure manual.

b. The SRO is assigned to the Support Services Bureau.

c. During the summer months when school is not in session, the SRO will be assigned as needed by the supervisor of the Support Services Bureau. The SRO will remain in contact with the administration of their assigned school.

6. Duty Hours

a. The SRO's will be assigned to work at their assigned school while school is in session. The hours may be adjusted to better serve the department and/or the school when special situations arise.

b. The SRO shall advise the dispatcher of his status throughout the day.

7. Uniform

a. The SRO shall wear the prescribed Department issued uniforms and equipment while on duty, unless authorized by their supervisor.

8. Transportation of Students

a. SRO's shall transport students in department vehicles only for official department business.

b. When providing transportation to a student, departmental guidelines will be followed.

9. Interview and Arrest Procedures

a. When conducting investigations, arrest and/or juvenile detention, the SRO will follow the policies of the department and the laws of the State of Missouri.

b. Officers investigating on the SRO's assigned school campus shall coordinate such activity with the SRO.

c. The SRO is responsible for briefing the school principal regarding any law enforcement activity on the school campus. The SRO shall ensure the confidential nature of these activities and that the school principal fully understands the need for confidentiality.

IV. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules, or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies, shall comply with this policy.

V. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in any evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only inform the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.