

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Alexandria City School Board

And

The Alexandria Police Department

School Law Enforcement

Partnership

Established July 1, 2026 -

June 30, 2028

THIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the Alexandria City School Board d/b/a Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the Alexandria Police Department (APD); and

WHEREAS the Parties recognize that school safety and security is best achieved with the collaboration of law enforcement and school administrators; and

WHEREAS ACPS recognizes that APD and its staff are its professional law enforcement partners; and

WHEREAS Code of Virginia § 22.1-280.2:3 requires school boards who use School Resource Officers (SROs) to establish a memorandum of understanding with the local law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS the 2020 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No.91 affirming the Commonwealth of Virginia's commitment to diversity and safeguarding the civil rights and dignity of all Virginians; and

WHEREAS ACPS makes an enduring commitment to ensure that students and staff are respected for their diversity, dignity and self-worth; and

WHEREAS ACPS and APD share a common goal of maintaining professional law enforcement services and supporting the schools for the benefit of Alexandria generally; it is hereby

RESOLVED and AFFIRMED that this MOU is designed to safeguard the safety

and security of ACPS students and staff, as well as APD staff.

1. OVERVIEW

- a. ACPS and APD hereby enter into this School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) MOU to foster relations of mutual respect, collaboration, and understanding, in order to build a positive and safe school environment in ACPS schools. The Parties agree that the vast majority of student misconduct can be best addressed through classroom and in-school strategies. The Parties acknowledge that students are generally less mature and responsible than adults; they often lack the maturity, experience, perspective and judgment to recognize and avoid choices that could be detrimental to them; and they are more susceptible to outside pressures than adults. The Parties further acknowledge that all responses to school misconduct should be reasonable, consistent, and fair, with an appropriate consideration of mitigating factors, the nature, and the severity of the incident. Students should receive appropriate redirection and support from in-school community resources prior to the consideration of suspension, expulsion, the involvement of law enforcement, or a referral to court.
- b. This document is designed to be consistent with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) School/Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Guide format.
- c. This MOU clarifies the following three items:
 - i. Departmental-level scope of responsibilities of the School Board, as implemented through the Superintendent of Schools and the APD.
 - ii. The roles and responsibilities of the following key members of the MOU program:
 - ACPS:
 - ACPS School Administrators
 - School Security Officer (SSO)
 - APD:
 - APD Official/School Resource Officer Commander (SROC)
 - APD School Resource Officer (SRO)
 - APD Law Enforcement Officer (Non-SRO)

- iii. Procedures for the exchange of information between parties and their agents.

2. PURPOSE

This partnership is intended to facilitate effective, timely communication and the coordination efforts of both Parties. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a mutually beneficial framework that both schools and law enforcement can work within to achieve their shared goals.

3. GOALS

- a. The primary goals of the MOU are to:
 - i. Ensure a clear and defined understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the two parties;
 - ii. Create and maintain welcoming, safe and secure school environments;
 - iii. Foster a positive and supportive school safety climate; and
 - iv. Establish metrics to clearly measure the effectiveness of the partnership, to include the addition of a quarterly SRO assessment form for Principals.
- b. So as to ensure understanding of the roles of the two parties, this MOU clarifies the respective responsibilities of ACPS and APD regarding, *inter alia*, law enforcement access to student education records and the information contained therein; the safety of students and staff, including plans and strategies designed to provide for a safe and secure school environment; the role of SROs in relation to those student disciplinary offenses which may also involve possible criminal violations, the reporting of certain student offenses as required by Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.3:1; and the cooperative arrangement for the coordination and utilization of services of the APD relating to the notice to local law enforcement when required documents have not been submitted for student enrollment pursuant to Virginia Code § 22.1-3.1. Nothing in this MOU should be interpreted to interfere with ACPS's right to maintain administrative control over its schools, employees, and students, or with APD's right to manage the operational employment of the SROs.
- c. So as to create and maintain welcoming, safe and secure school environments, the Parties will collaborate to reduce and prevent crime,

violence, victimization, and fear in and around schools, and to minimize student involvement with the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

- d. The purpose of a successful SRO program is to build positive and trusting relationships between law enforcement and students. This purpose is best accomplished by using the SRO TRIAD Model. This model promotes three critical roles for the carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped law enforcement officer assigned to work in a school or school community, and has three components for SROs: (1) Law Enforcement Officer, (2) Public Safety Educator, and (3) Informal Counselor/Mentor. To foster a positive and supportive school climate, ACPS and APD will collaborate to implement these three components in accordance with applicable laws and the applicable policies of the respective agencies.
- e. The Parties agree that police interventions should be used as a last resort for staff and student safety. The ACPS Student Code of Conduct provides guidance to administrators and includes interventions designed to assist with managing behavior concerns that lessen opportunities for SRO involvement in incidents. Administrators use tiered strategies that help students build skills through Restorative Practices (RP), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The Department of Student Services and Equity provides support to administrators through coaching and consultation to implement and monitor equitable disciplinary practices across student groups.

4. EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

- a. The SLEP program will include quantitative measures to evaluate performance. Such measures will be tracked in either the ACPS School Safety report and/or the Quarterly SRO Report. These measures will also be tracked on an ACPS data dashboard. Improvement will be demonstrated through a change in the following measures:
 - i. Decrease in the number of disruptions (ACPS – includes disruptions with and without SRO involvement);
 - ii. Decrease in the number of arrests (APD);
 - iii. Decrease in the number of violent/aggressive incidents and truancy levels (ACPS);
 - iv. Decrease in the number of complaints to SROs as reported on

the assessment forms;

- v. Increase in positive perceptions of safety (as tracked in the Annual School Climate Survey);
 - vi. Improved relationships between law enforcement, school security officers and students; and
 - vii. Improved student academic achievement.
- b. The performance of the law enforcement officers on assignment in ACPS will be monitored. Any incident in which a law enforcement officer(s) makes official contact with a student or students will be tracked and reviewed by school administration and by the ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services. All official contacts shall be considered reportable offenses, in addition to any reporting required by School Board Policy or by statute. For the purposes of this MOU, an "official contact" is defined as:
- i. Questioning a student(s) for law enforcement purposes;
 - ii. Detaining a student(s); or
 - iii. Apprehending or arresting a student(s).
- c. In implementing the MOU, ACPS and APD will use measurable objectives, to include an assessment of data that covers at a minimum:
- i. **The VDOE Annual Report for Discipline, Crime and Violence.** The Code of Virginia requires school divisions to submit data to VDOE regarding incidents of discipline, crime and violence (DCV). Current reports contain selected comparisons to prior years. DCV data is also used to complete federal reports required by the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 (GFSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). GFSA requires annual reporting of the number of students suspended or expelled statewide for possessing or bringing firearms on school property. IDEA contains requirements for reporting disciplinary action involving students with disabilities. This reporting requirement corresponds with School Board policy CLA "Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse." The reporting required by the Department of Education is the responsibility of the Principal or their designee. The report shall include whether or not disciplinary action was taken by ACPS against such student. Proper

reporting will include whether action required a police enforcement action. A measurable objective for the purposes of this MOU is to determine how many incidents are reported each school year and how many resulted in law enforcement action. This analysis should differentiate between incidents of administrative discipline and law enforcement actions.

- ii. **Police statistical reports of student crime and violence (subject to privacy protections).** APD will provide statistical reporting updates quarterly to the ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services, unless otherwise requested by ACPS. Information sharing between ACPS and APD will be essential for providing the measurable data required for overall program evaluation. School administrators will be required to complete the "ACPS Law Enforcement Occurrence Report" form located in Appendix 2 of this MOU any time there is law enforcement action at a school (to include any "official contact" with a student or other as defined above). Law enforcement actions may include assisting administrators as requested, investigations, referrals, arrests, and other actions. This form will be completed by school administration with the support of the responding law enforcement officer. All reports must be sent to ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services within 24-hours of the law enforcement action. These forms will be collected and reviewed for accuracy and completeness by ACPS and APD. Event type, administrative result, criminal result, parent notification, and case number information will be collected by the Office of Safety and Security Services and shared with the Department of Student Services and Equity to be compared to measurable discipline data. The Office of Safety and Security Services will include age, race, sex, disability, and other pertinent data in its analysis.

- iii. **VDOE School Climate Survey (high-school level only).** The Code of Virginia requires school divisions to complete an annual School Safety Survey in order to assess school safety conditions. As a means for collecting individual school safety audit information, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) annually administers the Virginia School Safety Survey. This web-based survey provides all public schools (K-12) with a standardized report format for conducting and submitting their audit information. School

climate surveys will be reviewed by the Office of Safety and Security Services and analyzed for positive and negative trends versus previous years (annual reviews).

- iv. **Quarterly Performance Review Meetings.** ACPS leadership (or designee) will meet with APD leadership (or designee) in August, November, February, and May of each school year to review SRO performance and discuss reporting data. The ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services will provide the Superintendent and the Police Chief and City Manager's Office with a summary of findings after each meeting. The quarterly performance review reports will include the following data: (a) daily SRO attendance; (b) calls for assistance; (c) incident reporting; (d) educational activities with students; and (e) completed SRO Assessment Forms. Data collected for measures "i" and "ii" and above will be included in the quarterly reports.

- v. **SRO Assessment Form.** In correlation with the Quarterly Performance Review meetings, each Principal (at a school where an SRO is assigned) will complete the "SRO Assessment Form," provided in Appendix 3. This form provides school administration with the opportunity to assess categories of SRO support to include dependability, availability, professionalism, communication, judgment, knowledge, performance and presentation skills. The "SRO Assessment Form" is a tool to support improved collaboration as necessary; it is not an official personnel evaluation for the SRO, as SROs are not employees of ACPS. Completed forms will be included as attachments to the Quarterly Performance Review meeting reports.

Educational Activities with Students. Per the SRO Triad Model, Principals will permit and assist in scheduling the SROs to complete an educational activity at their assigned school with a goal of one activity per quarter. An educational activity could include classroom briefings, student council briefings, relevant and age-appropriate presentations, etc. Briefing materials and topics must be approved by school administrators. In addition, school administrators may request law enforcement participation in school-related, educational law enforcement briefings or seminars at any time. Most seminars will relate to public safety topics. ACPS will participate in all law

enforcement sponsored/related activities, if they are requested. All educational activities completed by SROs will be reported on within the quarterly performance reports.

- d. All other data deemed relevant may also be used. Progress towards achieving or improving the respective objectives of the Parties shall be jointly reviewed at least annually by ACPS Safety & Security Services and APD designees. Furthermore, this information will be prepared in a report to be shared with the School Board and the public on APD's and ACPS's respective websites.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

a. APD Responsibilities

- i. APD will designate a direct point of contact between APD and ACPS. The designee will address any operational and administrative issues that arise and will serve as a consultant for school safety and security issues, including assessments and critical incident response planning. The designee will maintain a working knowledge of school rules, regulations, and laws regarding student safety and conduct. The designee will establish and maintain effective working relationships with school personnel at the division and at all school levels, and will seek opportunities to build positive relationships with parents and students through informal meet-and-greets and other means. The designee will ensure that SROs meet APD requirements as noted in this MOU.
- ii. The selection, assignment, scheduling, training, supervision, and evaluation of SROs will be the responsibility of APD. However, APD will take into account the input of school personnel, as well as any identified needs and conditions of schools. The SRO shall remain at all times under the control, through the chain of command, of the law enforcement agency. APD will ensure that all SROs meet the training standards established for SROs by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) pursuant to Code of Virginia §§ 9.1-101 and 9.1-114.1.
- iii. In developing and implementing law enforcement policies and other

practices that may affect schools, APD will consult with, and take into consideration, the views of ACPS employees and the school community.

- iv. APD will ensure that SROs receive relevant training prior to any assignment in a school, as well as ongoing joint training with school administrators. All training should be aligned with this MOU, DCJS curriculum, and should be done in consultation with ACPS. SROs should be trained to utilize the SRO TRIAD Model. This model includes understanding and applying the principles of each TRIAD component, as outlined in Appendix 1.
- v. APD will provide payment for SROs that attend certain school staff meetings and for after-hours police investigations.

b. ACPS Responsibilities

- i. ACPS will designate a primary division-level point of contact to implement the partnership and to maintain ongoing communications with APD officials. The Director of Safety & Security Services, or their designee, will be the primary contact with APD. It is the responsibility of school administrators (Principal or designee) to facilitate effective communication between the SRO, students, and school staff, and to support the goals of the partnership.
- ii. Each school with an assigned SRO will provide work area(s) for the SRO that allows access to technologies (computer systems), space for private interviews of several people, and locking storage spaces for the security of physical evidence. Access to technology allows officers to access databases that are required for the performance of basic law enforcement duties. The private interview space also serves as the SRO's private office space. SROs may use this space for securing evidence only when necessary, and only when initial investigations do not occur at a police station.
- iii. ACPS will handle discipline within the school disciplinary process without involving SROs, with the exception of exceptional circumstances outlined below. This policy corresponds to ACPS Regulation JFC-R "Standards of Student Conduct." ACPS policies,

administrative guidance, training, and ongoing oversight will clearly communicate that school administrators and teachers are responsible for school discipline, and that law enforcement is not to be involved with disciplinary action. ACPS is responsible for communicating the goals and the role of the SRO to all school administration, staff, and students. The following sequence shall be considered an ideal example of the disciplinary process:

- School administrators, student support teams, and staff engage the student;
 - School administrators, student support teams, and staff resolve the event with the assistance of the appropriate Central Office department (Student Services and/or Safety & Security Services);
 - The student responds positively to the agreed restorative program.
- iv. ACPS will ensure that school administrators at schools with an assigned SRO receive relevant training on the role and responsibilities of SROs. School administrators, teachers, and SSOs in the assigned school will be part of the training before each school year begins. The training should be aligned with the SRO TRIAD model and DCJS curriculum and should be done in consultation with the APD. The training will include behavioral interventions (ex: Restorative Practices).
- v. ACPS will continue to utilize a positive behavior intervention strategy (PBIS) system in grades K-8. Additionally, ACPS will utilize restorative practices with students in grades 8-12. Restorative practices include the use of restorative circles to mediate conflict and disciplinary issues. If during the use of a restorative circle, or during a discipline investigation, there is information shared that relates to a required reportable offense to APD, ACPS staff will notify the APD SRO immediately in compliance with mandated reporting procedures. Restorative practices are also used when a student returns from a suspension.
- vi. ACPS shall provide payment to compensate law enforcement officers that work at school events/activities at the request of ACPS

staff, such as sporting events, social events, plays, and school-sponsored programs.

c. School Resource Officer Responsibilities

- i. The SRO is a duly appointed, armed, police officer who works in the schools and who is to provide immediate law enforcement assistance in the event of serious physical violence and crime. The SRO acts as both a deterrent and response to protect the safety of students and staff.
- ii. The SRO supplements support of the school security staff (unarmed security staff) to ensure campus safety. Because the SRO is assigned on a daily basis as the representative of a school, the SRO should be considered as active security staff members of their assigned schools. The SRO assists with matters related to safety, security, and the exchange of information.
- iii. SROs should assist school administrators in developing school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. SROs should work with school administrators in problem-solving to prevent crime and to promote safety in the school environment. SROs are expected to collaborate with school administrators and other school personnel to support positive school climates that focus on resolving conflicts and minimizing student involvement with the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- iv. As a general practice, unless there is a clear and imminent threat to safety, the SRO should act only upon request of school administrators and as a last resort to the actions of school administrators. Requests for SRO law enforcement assistance are to be channeled through a school administrator. See Appendix 1 for details of the SRO role and responsibilities.

d. School Principal and Administrator Responsibilities

- i. In collaboration with the ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services, the School Principal exercises operational control over the SRO's work assignment location in or around the school building and grounds. This authority is consistent with Virginia Standards of Accreditation (2000). Furthermore, Virginia Administrative Code

Section 8 VAC 20-132-200.A provides: “the principal is recognized as the instructional leader and manager of the school and is responsible for [f]ostering the success of all students by developing, advocating, and sustaining an academically rigorous, positive, and safe school climate for all stakeholders[.]”

- ii. Consistent with 8 VAC 20-132-240.D.3, the school administration also ensures "a written procedure, in accordance with guidelines established by the local board, for responding to violent, disruptive or illegal activities by students on school property or during a school-sponsored activity."
- iii. In collaboration with the ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services, the school principal and administrators in schools where SROs are present will review this MOU with SROs and establish school-specific operational and communications procedures to support the goals of the SLEP. Reports of concerns or complaints about SRO actions shall be directed to school administrators and to the Office of Safety and Security Services, who shall work directly with the SRO Supervisor and APD leadership to address such concerns.

e. School Security Officer (SSO) Responsibilities

- i. A School Security Officer (SSO) is an unarmed security officer employed by ACPS, via full-time employment or security contract. The SSO is an extension of their respective school administration. The singular purpose of an SSO is to maintain order, and to assist school administrators with ensuring the safety, security, and welfare of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to ACPS schools. SSOs may physically intervene in fights, when warranted and as a last resort, to assist administration in restoring order and safety.
- ii. SSOs assist administrators with enforcement of the Student Code of Conduct, in addition to performing assigned security monitoring duties in an assigned area. Security duties may include screening of visitors, exterior and interior patrols and door checks, video surveillance camera monitoring, activating emergency response protocols, and other duties as assigned.

- iii. All SSOs are the responsibility of Safety & Security Services and report directly to the Security Services Supervisor. SSOs are required to obtain state DCJS certification within 60 days of hire. SSOs are not law enforcement officers, as their responsibility and authority are in effect while on duty at an assigned ACPS property. SSOs have no authority off school property, unless they are assigned to an off-site function.

6. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

a. Differentiating Disciplinary Misconduct from Criminal Offenses

- i. School administrators and teachers are responsible for school discipline. Although SROs are expected to be familiar with the school division code of student conduct, the rules of individual schools, and their application in day-to-day practice, SROs should not be involved with the enforcement of school rules or disciplinary infractions that are not violations of law.
- ii. Consequences of student misconduct should be effective, developmentally appropriate, and fair. Interventions and school sanctions should help students learn from their mistakes and address root causes of misconduct. School administrators will consider alternatives to suspensions and law enforcement officials will consider alternatives to referrals to juvenile court services and arrests for student violations of law.
- iii. In accordance with School Board Policy JB, any action taken in response to disciplinary misconduct and/or criminal offense will be administered fairly and without regard to race, national origin, disability, religion, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or marital or parental status.
- iv. This MOU shall operate in a manner to ensure children with disabilities receive appropriate behavioral interventions and support.

b. Information Sharing

- i. **Governing law.** The release of student records by ACPS is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g.
- ii. **SRO Notification.** When appropriate, and to the extent the law allows, ACPS should notify SROs of any special needs of a student involved in a school-based infraction that is not routine discipline, in order to assist the SRO in recognizing and accommodating behaviors that may be manifestations of the student's disability.
- iii. **Consent Access.** A law enforcement officer or SRO may have access to a student's education records with written consent of the student's parent/guardian/legal custodian and in accordance with FERPA.
- iv. **Health and Safety Emergency Exception.** In the event of a significant and articulable threat to health or safety, school officials may disclose any information from student records to appropriate parties, including SROs and other law enforcement officials, whose knowledge of the information is needed to protect the health and safety of a student or another individual.
- v. **Disclosure of law enforcement records.** In accordance with the law, SROs or other APD officers or officials may disclose law enforcement records created and maintained by the SRO for the purpose of ensuring the physical safety and security of people and property in schools and/or enforcement of laws. In exceptional circumstances where other sufficient information may not be available to ACPS, SROs (or other APD officers or officials), with the approval of APD, may provide information gathered in the course of a police investigation to ACPS for the purposes of a serious student disciplinary matter including, if necessary, testifying at such disciplinary proceeding. In the event APD determines that sharing such information may jeopardize an actual or reasonably probable criminal prosecution, APD may seek review of the proposed release from the Office of the Alexandria City Commonwealth Attorney. Because law enforcement records are not student records, they are not subject to the disclosure restrictions of FERPA. If the SRO is aware of an event in the community that could compromise the safety and security of ACPS students and staff, he/she will notify the school

administration.

c. Investigation and Questioning

- i. SROs have the authority to question students who may have information about criminal activity on or off school property. As sworn law enforcement officers, SROs have authority to stop, question, interview, and take law enforcement action without prior authorization of the school administrator or contacting parents or legal guardians, especially when timely information will help prevent injury, death or evidence destruction. For all other non-exigent circumstances, when it becomes necessary for the SRO or law enforcement officer to interview a student on school premises, the school principal or their designee shall be contacted immediately. The investigation and questioning of students during school hours or at school events should be limited to situations where the investigation is related to suspected criminal activity related to the operation of or occurring at the school. The investigation and questioning of students for offenses not related to the operation of or occurring at the school should take place at school only when delay might result in danger to any person, destruction of evidence, or flight from the jurisdiction by the person suspected of a crime.
- ii. Prior to any non-exigent questioning of a student, the student's parents, guardian, or legal custodian shall be notified of the pending interview. The SRO/Police Officer will be responsible for verifying that the student has had contact with their parent, guardian, or legal custodian. If the parent requests to be present, or requests that the questioning not occur on school premises, the SRO/Police Officer should accommodate, with few exceptions.
- iii. If the parent or guardian cannot be present for the interview or allows it to proceed, then the SRO may proceed with the principal or his/her designee present throughout the interview, per School Board Policy KNAJ "Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities." The investigation and questioning of students during school hours or at school events should be limited to situations where the investigation is related to suspected criminal activity. Investigations and questioning of students for offenses not related to the operation of or occurring at the school should take place at school only when delay might result in danger to any person, destruction of evidence, or flight from the jurisdiction by the person suspected of a crime.
- iv. The interviewing of students - whether suspects, victims, or witnesses - should be conducted privately in an office setting. SROs will take steps to ensure minimal intrusion into the

educational experience of students being questioned in the school setting. No non-exigent questioning of a student will take place without the presence of a school administrator(s).

- v. Recognizing that a reasonable student subjected to police questioning will sometimes feel pressured to submit whereas a reasonable adult would feel free to go, as a general rule, the student should not be arrested or placed in custody during the initial interview or interrogation. While in the presence of a school administrator, the student will be informed generally of the purpose of the investigation, warned against self-incrimination in a developmentally appropriate manner, and also informed and advised that the student has the right to remain silent, that the student is free to leave an interrogation, and that the student has the right to stop the questioning and request that his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) or an attorney be present at any time during interrogation.
- vi. SROs are responsible for leading the investigation and questioning of students related to suspected violations of criminal law. SROs shall not be included in questioning students about student code of conduct violations that do not involve any criminal activity or risk of harm to self or others. School administrators are responsible for the questioning of students about violations of the code of conduct.

d. **Searches**

- i. **Legal Authority.** All searches shall be conducted in accordance with federal and state laws, and applicable ACPS and APD policies and guidelines, including the principles embodied in this MOU. The below sections correspond with School Board policy JFG "Search and Seizure."
- ii. **School administrator searches.** School officials may conduct searches of student's property and person under their jurisdiction when reasonable suspicion exists that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school in accordance with guidelines developed as contemplated by Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.7, and the advice of ACPS legal counsel.
- iii. **SRO searches.** Any search initiated by SROs or other law enforcement officers shall be based upon probable cause and, when

required, a search warrant should be obtained. SROs and law enforcement officers should obtain a search warrant in all cases where initial consent was not obtained and probable cause exists that a crime has been committed. All searches should be reasonable in scope. All searches should occur outside the presence of students and school staff, with the exception of school administrators, unless there is a clear and immediate threat to physical safety.

- iv. **Administrative Searches.** SROs shall not become involved in administrative (school related) searches unless specifically requested by school administrators and at no time shall SROs request that an administrative search be conducted for law enforcement purposes or have the administrator act as his or her agent. The role of police in administrative searches will be limited to providing security or protection, or to handle contraband or weapons found by school staff.

e. **Arrests**

Whenever practical, arrests of a student or staff members should be accomplished outside of school hours in order to not disrupt the educational process or school setting. Arrests that must occur during school hours or on school grounds should be coordinated through the school administrator or their designee to minimize potential disruption. When circumstances do not allow for prior coordination through the school administrator, arrests will be reported to the school administrator as soon as possible. In addition to any required notification of parents and legal guardians by the SRO taking a student into custody, school administrators or their designees are also responsible for an additional notification of parents and legal guardians upon a school-based arrest of their child. If questioning or investigatory interviews must occur, the SRO must refer to the "Investigation and Questioning" section of this document.

f. **Physical Restraint by School Personnel**

Physical restraint refers to restricting a student's ability to freely move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head. The term physical restraint does not include a physical escort, such as temporary touching of the arm or other body part for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location. Physical restraint by school personnel is used in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia (8VAC20-750), and related

ACPS policies. Every effort should be made by school personnel to prevent the need for the use of restraint. Physical restraint should not be used except by school personnel trained in the use of physical restraint as required by the school division. School personnel should act to de-escalate situations that are causing, or have the potential to cause, disruptions to the school environment and/or are violations of the student code of conduct where appropriate. If physical intervention is necessary, the action shall be reported promptly to the school administrator and the rationale for the action shall be fully documented.

g. Physical Intervention by School Resource Officers

- i. As sworn law enforcement officers, SROs may intervene to de-escalate situations. However, an SRO should not be involved in the physical restraint of a student unless there is imminent danger of serious physical harm to self or others.
- ii. Physical intervention by SROs is undertaken in accordance with policies and operational procedures of the APD. If an SRO is involved in the use of restraint or physical intervention, the action must be reported to the school principal and the SRO's supervisor and the rationale for the action must be fully documented.
- iii. SROs should be aware of the Virginia Board of Education's policies and guidelines on seclusion and restraint and related local school board policies (e.g., School Board policy JM "Management of Student Behaviors in Emergency Situations") and will attend training offered by ACPS on their use of seclusion and restraint by school employees. SROs working in an ACPS school must provide verification that they have reviewed the ACPS seclusion and restraint guidelines prior to the start of the school year. SROs, however, must continue to operate by APD's policies and state law regarding physical intervention and use of force.
- iv. Additionally, if an SRO physically intervenes with a student, ACPS and APO/SRO will coordinate to ensure that a reasonable effort is made to inform the parents on the day of the incident.

h. Use of Shared Technology Resources.

- i. In an effort to continuously improve security posture at school facilities, ACPS utilizes various emergency notification platforms to send email and text alerts to families, school administration, staff,

and first responders (to include APD) when emergencies occur.

- ii. The SRO Supervisor/Sergeant will be the direct point of contact to receive, respond, and dispatch the appropriate police response to the threat level and/or anonymous report that poses a life/safety concern during and after school hours.
- iii. Certain technology resources may be implemented by APD (i.e. body-worn cameras). ACPS will be included in discussions regarding technology resources implemented by APD (that impact school operations) in an effort to understand technology, assist with process development from a school lens and minimize any potential negative impacts to students and/or school operations.

7. Key Statutory Responsibilities

a. Crime Reporting

- i. Code of Virginia § 22.1-279:3:1 of the Code of Virginia requires the reporting of certain acts to school authorities; the reporting of certain acts by school authorities to parents; and the reporting of certain acts by school authorities to law enforcement.

A. Reports shall be made to the division superintendent and to the principal or his designee on all incidents involving:

1. Alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance, an imitation controlled substance, or an anabolic steroid on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, including the theft or attempted theft of student prescription medications;
2. The assault and battery that results in bodily injury of any person on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
3. The sexual assault, death, shooting, stabbing, cutting, or wounding of any person, abduction of any person as described in Code of Virginia §§ 18.2-47, or 18.2-48,

or stalking of any person as described in Code of Virginia § 18.2- 60.3, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;

4. Any written threats against school personnel while on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
5. The illegal carrying of a firearm, as defined in Code of Virginia § 22.1-277.07, onto school property;
6. Any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, as defined in Code of Virginia § 18.2-85, or explosive or incendiary devices, as defined in Code of Virginia § 18.2-433.1, or chemical bombs, as described in Code of Virginia § 18.2-87.1, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
7. Any threats or false threats to bomb, as described in Code of Virginia § 18.2-83, made against school personnel or involving school property or school buses; or
8. The arrest of any student for an incident occurring on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, including the charge therefor.

B. Except as may otherwise be required by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, each ACPS principal:

1. Shall immediately report to APD any incident described in subdivision A(1) that may constitute a felony offense, however, ACPS principals should be generally aware of the conduct governed by subdivision A(1) that would rise to the level of a felony offense and, if in doubt, should refer to ACPS legal counsel for support;

2. Shall immediately report to APD any incident described in subdivisions A(3) through (7), except that a principal is not required to but may report to APD any incident described in subdivision A(4) committed by a student who has a disability;
 3. May report to APD any other incident described in subsection A that is not required to be reported pursuant to subdivision A(1) or (2), although principals should be aware that neither possession of alcohol nor possession of less than one pound of marijuana constitute felonies under Virginia law; and
 4. Shall immediately report to APD any act enumerated in subdivisions A(1) through (5) that may constitute a criminal offense to the parents of any minor student who is the specific object of such act. Further, the principal shall report whether the incident has been reported to APD pursuant to this subsection and, if the incident has been so reported, that the parents may contact APD for further information, if they so desire.
- ii. Pursuant to Code of Virginia §§ 16.1-260(G), 19.2-83.1(B), and 22.1-279.3:1, APD and/or intake officers are required to notify the ACPS superintendent if a student is arrested for certain offenses or subject to a petition alleging that the student committed certain offenses. Division superintendents who receive such reports are required to report the information to the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. As a general practice, SROs should notify the principal as soon as practical of any significant law enforcement events occurring at or in association with the school (e.g., at a school bus stop or off-campus activity, during or outside school hours). No SRO or school administrator will be required to file delinquency charges in response to any such activity.
 - iii. Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.3:1, certain types of criminal activity that come to the attention of the principal or school staff shall be reported immediately to APD/SRO as specified in ACPS policy.

Enumerated acts that may constitute a misdemeanor are no longer required to be reported. No SRO or school administrator shall be required to file delinquency charges. Schools and SROs shall be encouraged to deal with school-based offenses through graduated sanctions or educational programming before a delinquency charge is filed with the juvenile court. The Principal or their designee is required to notify the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of an incident that was reported to law enforcement. This section corresponds to School Board Policy CLA "Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse."

b. Threat Assessments

- i. Threat assessments shall be conducted in accordance with School Board policies (e.g., School Board policy EBB "Threat Assessment Teams"), adopted as required by Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.4 and consistent with model procedures and guidelines published by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). APD will develop policies and procedures to streamline the sharing of criminal history when needed by ACPS in completing a threat assessment, as needed.
- ii. SROs shall serve as members of the school's threat assessment team, known as crisis management team safety team, as required by Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.4, and assist in monitoring of subject students as well as determining the need, if any, for law enforcement action.

c. School Safety Audits

School safety audits will be conducted annually as required by Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8 to assess school safety conditions in schools. The Virginia School Safety Audit Program is managed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and is a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school. The audits are designed to identify physical security concerns.

8. Immigration and Citizenship Status

ACPS and APD agree that no SRO employed by a local law-enforcement agency in any public elementary or secondary school, nor any individual who is an employee, contractor, or agent of ACPS shall engage in actions and practices that involve or

result in the denial of a free public education, or denial of the benefits or exclusion from participation in any program or activity thereof, of a child solely on the basis of the actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status of the child or the child's parent or legal guardian.

9. Approval and Biennial Review of MOU

In accordance with Code of Virginia § 22.1-280.2:3, this MOU should be reviewed at least biennially and amended as necessary to meet the needs and enhance the partnership of the two signatory organizations. Quarterly performance review meetings should be conducted throughout the year in accordance with the terms of this MOU. This MOU remains in force until such time as either Party, with 45-day notice, withdraws from the agreement by delivering an email or written notification of such rescission to the other Party.

Signed:

Tarrick McGuire
Chief of Police,
On behalf of the Alexandria Police
Department

Date:

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt
Superintendent of Schools on
Behalf of Alexandria City
School Board

Date:

Glossary of Terms

Understanding that ACPS, APD and members of the public may ascribe different meanings to terms used within this Memorandum of Understanding, the following definitions shall apply within the context of this document:

Arrest: An arrest is an officer taking a student into custody based on probable cause that the person has committed a criminal offense.

Contraband: All substances and materials in which students are prohibited from possessing on school grounds by law and/or division policy.

De-escalate: Behavior and skills, both verbal and non-verbal, intended to prevent the escalation of conflicts and/or use of force to resolve conflicts.

Detention: An officer's "brief and cursory" holding and questioning of someone based on reasonable suspicion the student has committed a crime. If the SRO is unable to establish probable cause within a brief period, a student would be free to leave unless the student is believed to have committed a very serious crime, to be a danger to self and others, to be a flight risk, or there is a threat of destruction of evidence. These conditions do not preclude an SRO from asking and a student from voluntarily agreeing to wait while an incident is investigated.

Investigation: The primary purpose of a police investigation is to determine if a crime occurred, to collect facts leading to the identification, possible arrest, and conviction of the offender, and to organize these facts in a report to present the evidence.

Probable Cause: A "practical, non-technical" standard that calls upon the "factual and practical considerations of everyday life on which reasonable men act." See *Illinois v. Gates*. A belief based on objective facts that lead an officer to reasonably suspect a crime has been committed or is about to be committed and the person(s) involved has committed it. Probable cause is also a belief based on objective facts that lead an officer to reasonably suspect evidence of the crime is present in a place to be searched.

Reasonable Suspicion: A belief based upon objective facts which lead an officer to reasonably suspect that a crime has been committed, is being committed, or is about to be committed. A reasonable suspicion must be based on the totality of the circumstances, including the officer's knowledge, training and experience. A reasonable suspicion does not exist unless the officer can articulate the objective factual basis for the officer's belief.

Referrals to court or court service units: The filing of a complaint to the court in the case of a student aged 18 or older or through juvenile court intake in the case of a student younger than 18.

Restorative Practices: A field within the social sciences that studies how to strengthen relationships between individuals as well as social connections within communities.

SRO TRIAD Model: The SRO TRIAD Model addresses the three critical roles for the carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped law enforcement officer assigned to work in a school or school community as an SRO. This model has three components: (1) Law Enforcement Officer (2) Public Safety Educator and (3) Informal Counselor/Mentor. Adolescents who have an adult to confide in are less likely to take part in risky behaviors. Taking steps to prevent these behaviors is important because they're linked to many chronic health problems later in life. Evidence shows that mentoring programs are an effective way to improve behavioral, social, emotional, and academic outcomes in adolescents. All three components provide the School Resource Officer opportunities to establish positive and trusting relationships with students, staff, parents and the school community.

Student Code of Conduct: A policy that aims to:

1. Encourage all students to engage in behaviors that promote learning and keep ACPS school environments safe and orderly
2. Inform the ACPS community of the possible consequences that address behavior infractions
3. Promote opportunities for all ACPS students to acquire the social, emotional and academic skills to succeed as citizens in our global community

Appendix 1- Roles and Responsibilities of the School Resource Officer (SRO)

Work schedule, Uniform, Equipment and Assignments. SRO's duty schedules should be organized to provide coverage throughout the school day, which may vary by school. SROs provide a visible deterrent to crime and shall be visible patrolling the exterior and interior grounds.

- a. The SRO should wear the regulation uniform and operate a marked police vehicle while on duty unless otherwise authorized by the SRO's supervisor for a specific purpose.
- b. Vehicles. Police vehicles should be parked in the garage or designated spaces. Parking in front of the school should be avoided unless required for traffic control support or police emergency.
- c. Long arms. Long-arms (e.g. shotgun, rifles) should not be openly displayed in the school or around the campus unless there is an emergency.
- d. Body cameras. Body camera video should not be used in the school setting unless there is a law enforcement purpose. If used, such recordings(s) must be strictly controlled and protective of juvenile information per legal requirements.
- e. NARCAN. NARCAN is a nasal spray that may counteract the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose. NARCAN may only be used by a trained SRO.
- f. School location and work assignment. The Office of Safety and Security in collaboration with the School Principal assigns the work locations. For matters of work performance (concerns or complaints), those matters may be reported to the APD Liaison Officer for follow up.

General SRO Responsibilities. Additionally, SROs should assist school administrators in maintaining order (within SROs' authority as outlined in this MOU), collaborating with school administration in assessing school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. SROs will work with administrators in problem-solving to prevent crime and promote safety in the school environment. SROs are expected to collaborate with school administrators and other school personnel to support positive school climates that focus on resolving conflicts, reducing student engagement with the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and diverting youth from courts when possible.

Specific roles or functions of SROs. As aligned with the SRO Triad model, the roles of an SRO are interrelated but all are carried out with the aim to contribute to school safety and security and to promote positive and supportive school climates. Key roles are:

a. Law Enforcement Officer

As sworn law enforcement officers, the SRO's primary role in schools is as a law enforcement officer. SROs assume primary responsibility for responding to requests for assistance from administrators and coordinating the response of other law enforcement resources to the school. SROs should work with school administrators in problem solving to prevent crime and promote safety in the school environment. SROs should also collaborate with school personnel to reduce student engagement with the juvenile justice systems and divert students from the courts when possible.

b. Public Safety Educator

As resources permit, SROs should strive to assist with presentations for school personnel on law-related topics such as law enforcement practices, changes in relevant laws, crime trends, crime prevention, school safety strategies, and crisis response procedures. SROs may also deliver law-related education with students using lessons/curricula approved in advance by the SRO Supervisor. In all cases, responding to incidents or conducting investigations will take precedence over delivery of presentations.

c. Informal Counselor/Mentor

Students often seek approval, direction, and guidance from adults in the school setting about various problems. Through formal and informal interaction with students, SROs serve as informal mentors and role models. SROs are expected to communicate clearly to students about acceptable and unacceptable behavior, to set a positive example in handling stressful situations and resolving conflicts, to show respect and consideration of others, and to express high expectations for student behavior. Students who may need additional assistance shall be referred to the school's student support team, known as SST.

Triad Model SRO Trainings:

To be an effective law enforcement officer in a school environment, the SRO should have a working knowledge of:

1. Constitutional crime prevention and mitigation interview and interrogation techniques;
2. Investigations;
3. Crime Prevention Through Environmental School Design (CPTED);
4. Patrol operations;
5. Advocacy within the juvenile justice system; and
6. Mandatory reporting requirements.

To be an effective public safety educator, the SRO should be capable of delivering lessons on public safety topics such as:

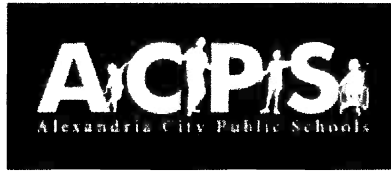
1. Crime prevention;
2. Social media;
3. School safety;
4. Victimization laws pertaining to students;
5. Safe traffic stops;
6. Driver safety;
7. Law enforcement careers;
8. Decision making; and
9. Other topics requested by staff/parents/students.

To be an effective informal counselor/mentor, the SRO should be properly trained in:

1. Mentoring;
2. Crime prevention;
2. Empowering youth resiliency and overall wellness;
3. Adolescent brain development;
4. Social and emotional development;
5. Supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion;
6. Improving youth decision-making skills; and
7. Trauma-informed practices.

APPENDIX 2

ACPS Law Enforcement Occurrence Form



Instructions: This form shall be filled out by the **school administrator** any time a law enforcement action/occurrence takes place at/during school. Complete the entire form **by asking the responding officer** all questions.

Submit to ACPS Safety & Security Services by COB day of occurrence.

School Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Incident/Occurrence Type/Initiated By(select all that may apply): Teacher/Administrator Request/Call for Police
 Anonymous Call Police Initiated Parent Initiated Student Initiated Emergency Response
 School Administrative Action Turned Criminal Referral Traffic or Accident Other _____

Answer All Questions Below:

Did the police issue/create a call for service number? Yes, # _____ No

If "Yes" answered above, were charges filed? Yes No N/A

Did the initiation of an administrative action result in a criminal charge? Yes No

Did police investigate or question a student while on campus? Yes No

If "Yes" was the student's parent or guardian present? Yes No Contacted

Does the student involved have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)? Yes No

Was there only an administrative disciplinary action taken? Yes No

You must identify all students involved by placing their ID number in the below section. Also, please mark student identifiers below. If an employee, identify by EID only.

Student Gender Identity: _____

Student Race: _____

Place Employee ID or Student ID Number(s) Here: _____

Was this police activity the result of surrounding activity and NOT school related? Yes No

Provide a brief summary of this occurrence here. _____

Safety & Security Services notified? Yes No Reporter's Name: _____

ACPS Law Enforcement Occurrence Form

Revised April 2023

Appendix 3- SRO Assessment Form



School Resource Officer Assessment Form

Please select only best answers that you observed or can assess.

Date *

Dependability *

- Is punctual for school and scheduled events/appointments?
- Can be counted on to perform duties with little or no direction?
- Not dependable

Availability *

- Officer is accessible to staff and students?
- Officer responds to requests in a timely manner?
- Mostly not available

Professionalism *

- Presents professional appearance?
- Demonstrates commitment to school and community?
- Unprofessional

Communication *

- Communicates effectively verbally?
- Communicates effectively in writing?
- Lack of proper communication with school administration

Appendix 3- SRO Assessment Form Cont.

Judgment *

- Accurately assesses situations and acts appropriately?
- Officer takes a proactive approach when appropriate?
- Lacks proper judgement/discretion

Knowledge *

- Knowledgeable about school rules and procedures?
- Knowledgeable about criminal/juvenile justice system?
- Knowledgeable about school and community resources?
- Lacks typical law enforcement and school safety knowledge

Performance *

- Takes proper law enforcement action when appropriate?
- Provides effective level of visibility?
- Presence contributes to higher perception of safety?
- Effective in collaborating with school personnel to address school safety/security concerns?
- Effective in crisis/emergency response planning and preparation activities?
- Effective in collaborating with faculty to provide law-related and other topical presentations?
- Lacks typical day-to-day performance measure

Presentation Skills *

- Effective in making presentations to audiences (students, faculty, parents)
- Lacks presentation skills
- Not Observed

Comments or Concerns

- Send me a copy of my responses

[Submit](#)

[Submit](#)