

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

File: KLGA

RELATIONS WITH SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

The School Board recognizes that a cooperative relationship with law enforcement authorities is desirable for the protection of students and staff and in maintaining a safe school environment. To that end, RSU No. 18 and the Oakland Police Department have established a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The School Board hereby officially designates the police officers assigned by the Oakland Police Department to serve as SROs as the law enforcement unit of RSU No. 18. All RSU 18's School Resource Officers are deputized by the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department which gives them jurisdiction in all RSU 18 towns. The purpose of the SROs is to enforce local, state and federal laws and to assist in maintaining the physical security and safety of the School Unit.

In keeping with RSU No. 18's mission, the primary roles of the SROs are to:

- Provide support and assistance to 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 teachers in planning and providing age-appropriate educational programs that foster respect for the law, an understanding of law enforcement, and safe and healthy behaviors;
- Serve as a resource to administrators and staff concerning law enforcement and child welfare issues;
- Assist individual students and their families in addressing issues related to law enforcement and helping students to have a meaningful school experience; and
- Serve as a liaison between the schools and the Oakland Police Department in addressing issues of concern to both departments.

School administrators and staff shall have the primary responsibility for maintaining proper order in the schools and for disciplining students for violations of Board policies and school rules. However, the Board authorizes the Superintendent/administration to seek the assistance of a SRO and/or the Oakland Police Department when they believe there is a threat to the welfare and safety of the schools, students and/or staff. The Superintendent/ administration shall also inform a SRO and/or the Oakland Police Department when they have reason to suspect that a student or staff member may have violated a state or federal criminal law.

In general, the Board discourages SROs and other law enforcement authorities from using the schools as a venue to arrest and/or question students for activities not related to or affecting the schools. The

