



Keeping Scholars and Staff Safe

Safety Update
August 2023



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...Providing an excellent education for all students

Keeping Scholars and Staff Safe

2023-2024 Initiatives

- Drivers Education
- Safe Storage Public Information Announcements
- Columbia Fire Educator
- School Resource Officers



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Drivers Education



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Drivers Education

DESE Information on Driver's Education Courses and Resources:

<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/drivers-education>

State Legislation:

Unlike other states across the country, drivers education is not required in Missouri. There have been multiple attempts over the years to make it a requirement. The most recent was this past legislative session.

<https://www.missourinet.com/2023/04/06/requiring-drivers-ed-courses-in-missouri-high-schools/>



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CPS Drivers Education History

2013: https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/columbia-public-schools-reintroduce-drivers-education/article_489a3be0-3e72-57be-996c-41c10e9524d0.html

There were 39 students enrolled in the course that summer.

2015: <https://www.columbiatribune.com/story/news/education/2015/06/27/young-drivers-take-to-roads/21774354007/>

Parent Sessions and Information From 2016-2019, right up until COVID, we partnered with First Impact on safe driving sessions for families and information on graduated drivers licenses in Missouri. There were sessions held each year and resources and flyers distributed to families. <https://medicine.missouri.edu/offices-programs/first-impact>

Reality Week in CPS Historically, CPS high schools have held Reality Weeks. These have been coordinated by the outreach and counseling staff at each high school. Held in the fall, they have featured things like the impaired driving goggles, wrecked cars, etc. The Highway Patrol and MoDOT were our partners with this and we will work to ensure these types of activities return.



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Drivers Education - CPS's Future

Vision Zero - a division within the City of Columbia Public Works Department. Vision Zero sets the goal, and data-driven strategy, to achieve zero traffic deaths or serious injuries on our roadways. It takes a community effort. Columbia Public Schools can, and should, play a key role in this goal.

We will explore opportunities to incorporate road safety education in our schools (K-12).

The 2023-24 school year will offer us the opportunity to reintroduce/introduce small programing opportunities to some schools with the goal to expand.



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Drivers Education

Current Course Description (online offering)

“1516ELO (online) Drivers Education Grade Level: 10, 11, 12 Credit: 1/2 Type: Elective
Prerequisite: Must have a valid Missouri Learner’s Permit. DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPERVISED DRIVER INSTRUCTION. This online course will help to prepare for the challenges and responsibilities you'll face as a new driver. While you don't have to complete a Driver’s Education course to receive your Missouri Driver’s License, this online course can help you prepare for taking the DMV written test and driving test. Note that this course DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPERVISED DRIVING INSTRUCTION. Students will learn the basics of safe vehicle operation and road safety as well as be expected to complete and submit a student driver’s log book of hours driven with the appropriate adult supervision.”



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Safe Storage for Firearms



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Safe Storage for Firearms

- Partnering with Columbia Police Department to create an informational public service announcement campaign on the importance of safe storage of firearms.
- This is identified as a need by local law enforcement agencies.
- Our goal is to share joint messages that will keep our schools and our community safe.



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Columbia Fire Educator



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Columbia Fire Educator

Fire and Life Safety Officer

- The position ties in nicely with function of a fire marshall – education and safety.
- Fire marshalls, assistant fire marshalls and the fire and life safety officer are commissioned officers.
- The fire and life safety officer will receive enhanced training, skill sets to work with kids, focus on scholars, and safety in our schools
- Commissioned officers are subject to Peace Officer Standards of Training.
 - CFD will pay for the 18-week training course at the Law Enforcement Training Institute
 - CFD/City will commission the officer following the completion of training
- The CFD agreement is congruent with CPD SRO MOU



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School Resource Officers



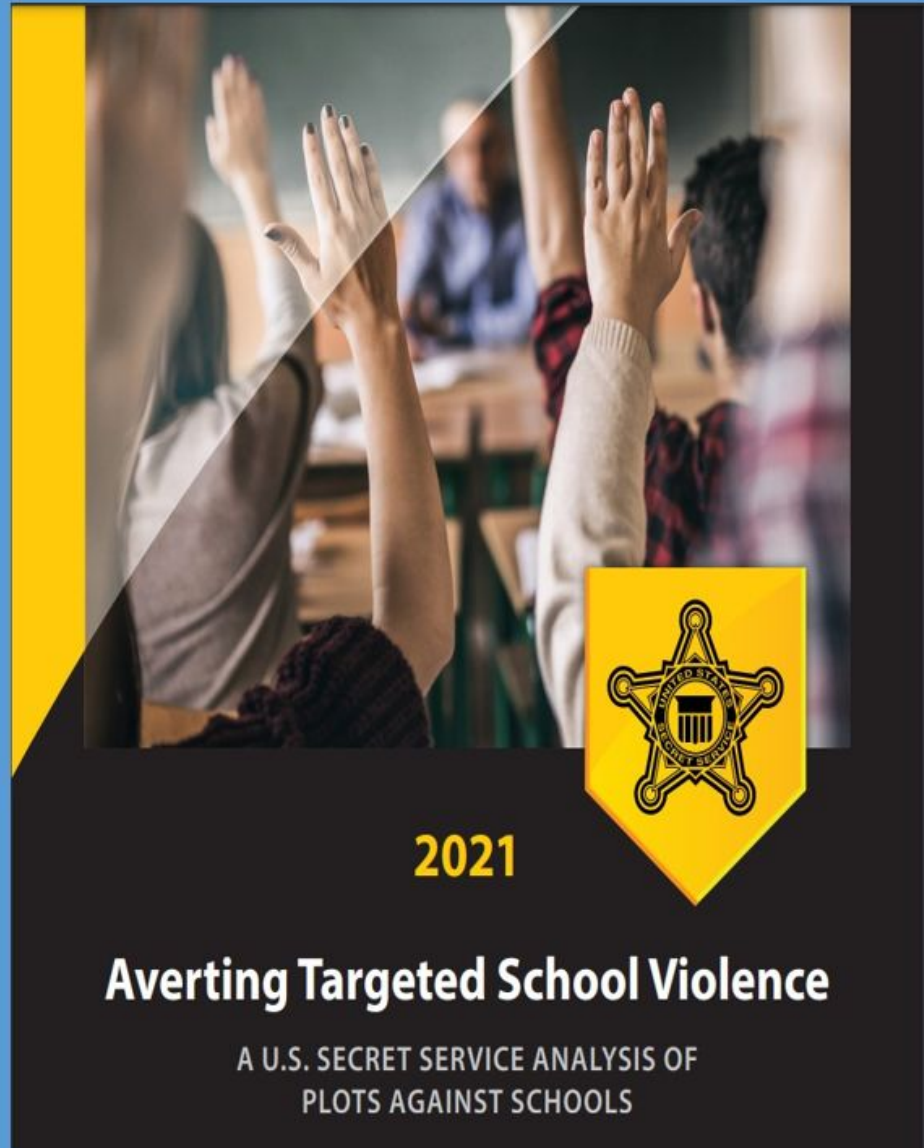
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What is an SRO?

Education – Teaching

Mentoring – Positive
Role Model

Safety – Deterrent



2021 Averting Targeted School Violence Report Findings

- Threat assessment procedure
- Robust counseling and social-emotional and mental health supports
- Tip Line - An anonymous way to report
- School Resource Officer Program

Primary SRO Responsibilities

- Overall safety of the building
- Build relationships with scholars, staff, and parent groups
- Break down barriers between law enforcement and scholars
- Provide mentoring and support for scholars and staff
- Government education resource within the school
- De-escalate scholars in crisis
- Reduce incidents by being a visible presence in the building
- Work with juvenile office and family courts to keep scholars from entering the system
- Immediate response time for emergencies
- Increase overall feelings of safety and security for staff and scholars
- Participate in restorative practices (*training completed on June 20th & 21st*)



Examples of SRO Daily Duties

- Morning meeting with principals to exchange information gathered from parents, community members, and social media to identify potential safety concerns. For example: spill-over of threats, suspicion of drug activity, and neighborhood conflict coming onto campus.
- Meeting with school leaders, crisis counselors, and parents to understand when and how at-home issues may impact scholar behavior at school.
- Listening to scholars' concerns and working with the school to help develop solutions.
- Coordinating additional law enforcement resources to assist with large public events on school campuses such as athletic events, dances, and community functions.
- Scheduling emergency drills in conjunction with other local agencies, including active intruder, fire, tornado, and earthquake drills.
- Developing and supporting social-emotional and healthy lifestyle programs.
- Helping scholars with their academic and social needs, even assisting with homework.



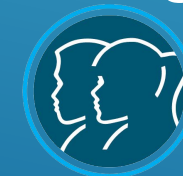
Response Times

Challenges without an SRO

- A non-emergent 911 call can take up to 5 hours after school is out for the day for a response
- CPD is currently operating at 64% staffing capacity. More officers are needed to be fully staffed.
- CPD patrol staffing is at its lowest during school hours, as more crime occurs in the evening and at night.

Benefits of an SRO

- Response times are immediate – The average mass shooting at one round every five seconds ends in five minutes or less.



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Relationships

- Interactions with scholars - at least 150 during lunch alone
- Forensic class
- Government classes
- Walking with scholars on senior night
- DJ at lunch time
- Dancing
- Providing food and other basic need supports for scholars
- Delivering food and other items for scholars during the pandemic
- Several CPD officers chose careers in law enforcement because of the relationships built by SROs



Relationships



Relationships

“It is a very common occurrence to see our SRO surrounded by scholars during class passing times. This is what building relationships and learning is all about. Officer Gilstrap creates relationships within the school easy. He easily interacts with scholars at all levels.

Officer Gilstrap participated in a strawberry DNA extraction lab and got to know this scholar in the process. The scholar would frequently ask when Officer Gilstrap would return to class. On multiple occasions I see this scholar as well as others from this class visit with Officer Gilstrap in the hallway between classes.

Officer Gilstrap relates to scholars by sharing his experiences from his own educational experience. As the officer works with scholars in a fun/educational/safe setting, he visits with them. Scholars gain a rich experience from the interaction, as well as trust.”





Statistical Data

SRO Connections

SCHOLAR	FAMILY	COMMUNITY	CPS EMPLOYEE
18 Classroom Presentations	11 FACE Referrals	30 Special Events	4 Restorative Practice Trainings
184 One-on-One Student Engagements/Activities	63 Contacts with Parents	6 Guest Speaking	50 Support Meetings Counselors, Nurses
17 Restorative Circles/Mediations	139 Principal, Asst. Principal, Dean Meetings	9 All-School Staff Meetings	2 ALICE Trainings/Safety Drills per School
Daily Contact with more than 500 Scholars per School	12 Assisting Other Agencies DFS, CD, JO, etc.		

- In 2022-23, a total of 133 students districtwide were taken into custody for violations. 125 of the 133 were released at school. 8 were transported to the police station by law enforcement.



Arrest Categories

Assault

Peace Disturbance by Fighting

Stealing

(116/125 were one of these 3 categories)



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“I think the most important thing for them to know is the relationship that the SROs built with the students. For some of the kids this is the first positive relationship they have had of encountered with a police officer. For other students it gives them the peace of mind with all the crazy stuff they hear about on social media to have that line of defense in the building looking out for us! Every time I would go upstairs there would be students in his office hanging out or he would be talking to groups of students in the hallway. I think that if the belief is that all they do is arrest students then they need to come to the schools and see what the SROs are truly doing and how they are engaging with the student body!”

- CPS School Building Employee



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Testimonials



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