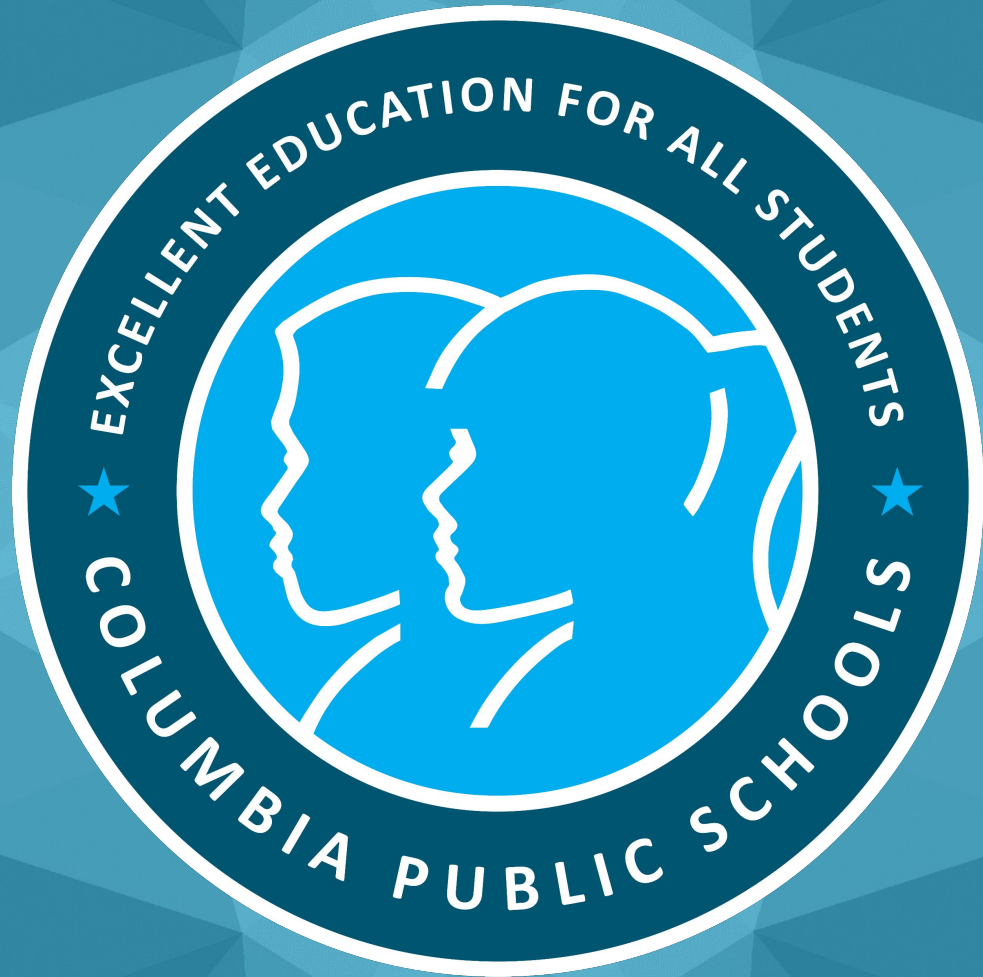




Columbia
PUBLIC SCHOOLS





Program Evaluation



Columbia
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Purpose of School Resource Officers

The primary purpose of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program is to cultivate a secure and collaborative educational environment by bridging the gap between law enforcement and schools.

By prioritizing relationship-building and educational outreach, SROs serve as both mentors and partners to students, families, and staff, fostering a deeper understanding of the law while integrating into the school culture through presence at campus events. The program ensures a safe learning atmosphere through swift, cooperative responses to serious disruptions and diligent reporting of on-campus incidents.

Ultimately, this partnership streamlines communication between the police department and school district, ensuring that both on-campus safety and off-campus investigations are handled with professional synergy.



Goals & Objectives

- Build relationships with students, families, and staff that enhance communication and the partnership between the CPD, CPS, and community;
- Foster education programs and activities that will increase students' knowledge of the law and the function of law enforcement agencies;
- Encourage SROs to attend extra-curricular activities held at school, when possible, especially those activities with significant crowds;
- Act swiftly and cooperatively when responding to major disruptions and flagrant criminal offenses at school, such as: disorderly conduct by trespassers, the possession and use of weapons on campus, the illegal sale and/or distribution of controlled substances and riots;
- Report crimes that occur on campus and to cooperate with law enforcement officials in their investigation of crimes that occur at school
- Cooperate with other law enforcement entities in their investigations of criminal offenses which occur off campus.



Progress Toward Goals



	2024-2025	2025-2026
Class presentations, meetings with outreach, nurses, counselors and HSCs, as well as FACE referrals, media interviews, restorative circles, and one-on-one meetings with students:	388	391
Activities attended outside of the regular instructional day - mainly sporting events:	65	78

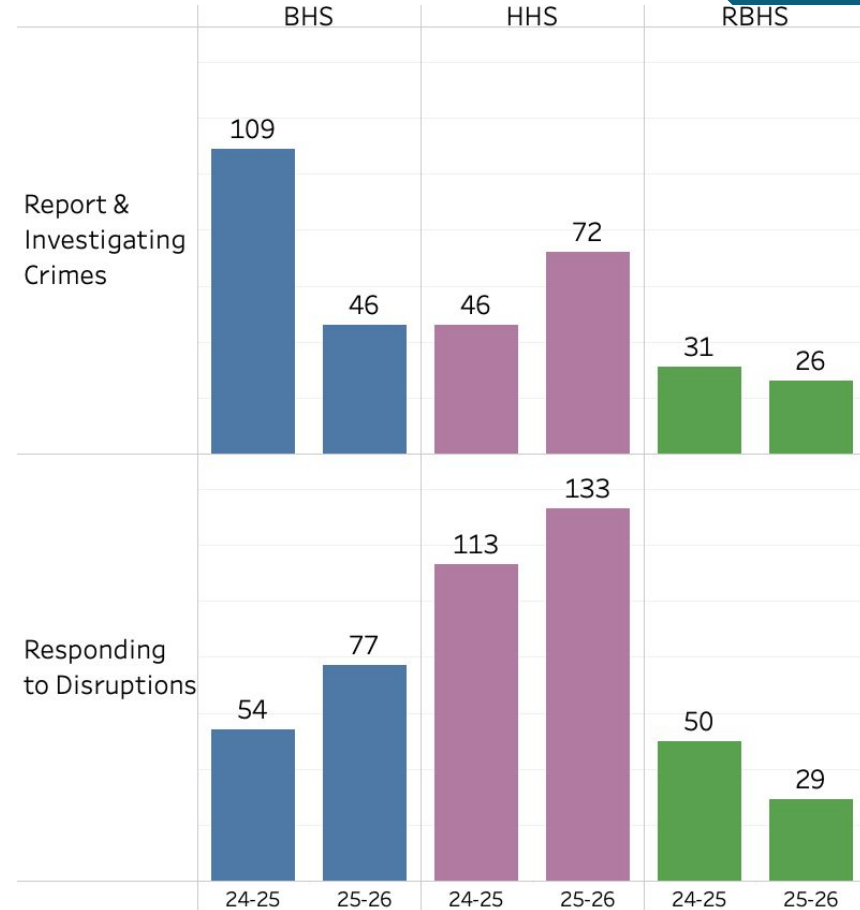
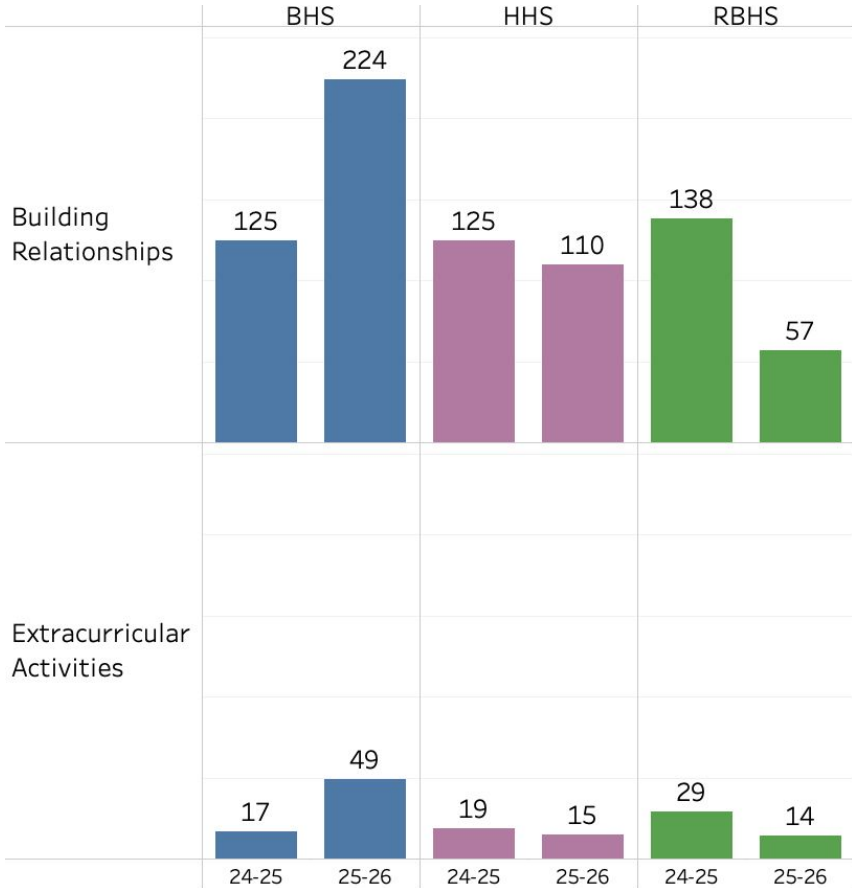


Building Relationships

- SROs act as guest lecturers on topics like digital citizenship, substance abuse awareness, traffic safety, and the legal system. This allows students to engage with law enforcement in a non-confrontational, academic setting.
- SROs collaborate regularly with Outreach, Nurses, Counselors, and Home School Communicators(HSCs) to identify students in crisis. These meetings focus on holistic wellness, ensuring that a student's behavioral issues are addressed with health or mental health support rather than just discipline.
- SROs work with FACE specialists to connect families with external resources. When a student's home situation impacts their school life, the SRO helps facilitate a bridge between the school's safety goals and the family's needs.
- SROs often participate in or facilitate restorative circles. These sessions allow students to take responsibility for their actions, hear how they affected others, and work toward "making things right" within the school community.
- SROs use informal check-ins to mentor students, provide a listening ear for those dealing with personal issues, and offer guidance to prevent minor mistakes from escalating into legal problems.
- SROs often serve as a public face for school safety. They provide context to the media regarding safety protocols, community programs, or specific incidents, aiming to maintain transparency and build public trust in the school's security environment.



Progress Toward Goals



Strengths & Growth Areas

Strengths

- Building relationships and fostering trust with the whole school community
- Building relationships with the city of Columbia, its agencies, and families
- Positive interactions with students and staff are increasing

Growth Areas

- De-escalation training for CPS staff
- Building relationships outside of the school environment



Future Goals

- Training for CPS staff on de-escalation
- Increase home visits along with Home School Communicators
- Increase our SRO staff to adequately cover all secondary schools



Questions

