

The Collaboration between the School Resource Officer, the School Safety Officer and the School Administrator

Division of School Safety
Office of Safe and Orderly Schools



Vision

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

Mission

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

Board Strategic Plan Goals

1. All students proficient and showing growth in all assessed areas
2. Every student graduates from high school and is ready for college and career
3. Every child has access to a high-quality early childhood program
4. Every school has effective teachers and leaders
5. Every community effectively using a world-class data system to improve student outcomes
6. Every school and district is rated “C” or higher

School Resource Officer (SRO)

What is a SRO?

- Law Enforcement Officer
- Educator
- Informal Counselor
- Emergency Manager

Law Enforcement

- Promotes safety in or around the school by addressing crime and fear of crime
- Investigates crimes and/or allegations of crimes on the school campus
- Patrols schools and district properties
- Serves as a liaison between the school and outside agencies to include Youth Court
- Conducts school safety assessments

Educator

- Teaches topics related to law enforcement geared toward positive student behavior
- Teaches character education courses (DARE / GREAT)
- Resource to teachers (constitution law, career day and true purpose of law enforcement)
- Liaison for other emergency response agencies (guest speakers)

Informal Counselor

- Builds relationships
- Additional “listening” resource
- May serve as a mediator for disclosing tough topics to parents or guardians.
- Reinforces positive behaviors
- Connects youth with needed services
- Mentor: a good role model is better than a good training class

Emergency Manager

- Develops and implements *Comprehensive Safety Plans* or strategies, in coordination with school administrators and local first responders
- Serves as crisis incident manager
- May serve as a coordinator for school emergency management tabletops

Role of SRO

The Officer's Beat = The Campus

The Citizens = Students, Staff and Guests

- The SRO:
 - Acts as a deterrent to crime
 - Investigates campus crime
 - Makes arrests when applicable
 - Documents incidents of service

Role of SRO (continued)

- The SRO's primary responsibility is to partner with administrators to ensure / maintain a safe and orderly campus that promotes learning.
 - The SRO is not responsible for administering discipline or making disciplinary decisions at the school.
 - The SRO should not monitor classes.
 - The SRO should not handle classroom management.
 - The SRO should not conduct a search without probable cause or a warrant as they are a sworn law enforcement officer.

Role of SRO (continued)

- The SRO may manage major incidents involving life and/or safety.
- The SRO may be used as a deterrent, however should not be used for intimidation.
- Be visible: walk the grounds
- Talk to the students
- Talk to staff, parents and guests
- Be unpredictable: have no set pattern of patrol
- Document all incidents of service
- Report and document security and maintenance issues

Role of SRO (continued)

The SRO should be:

- A protector
- A listener
- A positive role model

The SRO can support a positive school climate by:

- Helping with interventions,
- Teaching field related educational blocks,
- Helping to establish rapport and relationships,
- Acting as a liaison between law enforcement, students, staff, and parents.

The SRO as a Positive Role Model

Video clip:

<http://iloveviralvideos.com/police/student-tears-up-as-the-principal-gives-her-cellphone-to-the-cop-then-he-notices-that-somethings-off/>

School Safety Officer (SSO)

Role of SSO

- Primary Duty – Protection of students, staff and guest of the school district
- Support to school administrators and SROs
- Heavy foot patrol of campus
- Crime deterrent
- Escort (Disciplinary Form)
- Emergency responses

Role of SSO (continued)

- The SSO's primary responsibility is to partner with administrators to ensure / maintain a safe and orderly campus that promotes learning.
 - The SSOs are not responsible for administering discipline or making disciplinary decisions at the school.
 - SSOs should not monitor classes.
 - SSOs should not handle classroom management.
 - SSOs should not search without probable cause or warrant.

Role of SSO (continued)

- Because SSOs are not certified law enforcement officers, they may assist with a search if such search is initiated by the school administrator.
- Be visible: walk the grounds
- Talk to the students
- Talk to staff, parents and guests
- Be unpredictable: have no set pattern of patrol
- Document all incidents of service
- Report and document security and maintenance issues
- Serve as a positive role model

The School Administrator

Focus on Creating a Positive School Culture

1. Create a sense of belonging

- For students: develop positive relationships
- For teachers: encouragement, professionalism, team driven goals, being part of the educational process, achievement, empowerment, shared mission, shared values
- For parents and community: understanding needs, welcoming inquiries, addressing concerns, keeping informed, inviting communication & collaboration

(Habegger, 2008)

Focus on Creating a Positive School Culture

2. Provide clear direction

- For Students: participate in setting goals, charting progress, and developing action plans on daily basis
- For teachers: a cohesive schoolwide focus with shared mission, vision, and beliefs
- For parents and community: keeping well informed of how students are doing, system of communication with parents

(Habegger, 2008)

Collaborative Efforts

- Safety and security is **EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**
- In any event of immediate threat call 911 and leave the line open.
- SROs, SSOs and/or school staff should make contact with the unknown persons and offer assistance, to include escort to office for procedural sign in.
- Unknown persons should be asked to produce I.D.
- All persons and/or campus visitors should be treated with respect.
- The method in which SROs, SSOs and/or staff handle unknown visitors on campus will confirm to the public that schools are respectfully serious about school safety and security.

Collaborative Response to Perspective Threat

- Place school under controlled movement.
- If only the SSO is present call the SRO and/or 911. If the perspective threat is a person, do not attempt to make contact alone.
- Update SRO and/or 911 as best possible.
- Maintenance/custodians becomes additional eyes.
- Upon arrival of the SRO, both SRO and SSO may make contact only if they feel it is safe to do so. (SRO & SSO, SRO & Administrator, SSO & Administrator)

Collaborative response to perspective threat

- At any time, be it before or after the arrival of the SRO, the police department or sheriff's department may be called if situation and/or perspective threat appear to be escalating or in the event of immediate threat.
- Based upon the information received, the SRO may make the decision to call the police department (PD) or sheriff's office (SO) even prior to arrival. The administrator may decide to call 911 in addition to notifying the SRO.
- If the police department or sheriff's department is called, the chief of campus police or district's director of safety and superintendent must be notified at earliest opportunity.

Collaborative Response to Campus Lock-Down

- Administrators, SROs and SSOs may call campus lock-down.
- The all clear (lifting of lock-down) can only be given by a SRO or a full time certified law enforcement officer.
- SROs, PD officers and/or SO deputies should do a thorough check of the campus prior to giving the “all clear”.
- If the school should lift its own lock-down, it will also assume responsibility of anything that happens as a result of lifting the lock-down.

Collaborative Response to Simultaneous Investigations

- There will be times in which the school administrator and SRO may be conducting a simultaneous investigation in regards to the same incident.
- During such investigations, there should be mutual respect for the other's authority and responsibility.
- The common goal should be what is best for the student(s)

Collaborative Response to Simultaneous Investigations: Clarity

1. Safety (Everyone)
2. Legal/state law (SRO or police or sheriff's office)
3. School (school administration)

Ego should never make the list!!!

Documentation

- Document all incidents of service
- Visitor(s) unknown
- Suspicious person(s)
- Use of force / response to resistance
- Campus ban(s)
- Reported threat(s)
- Evidence

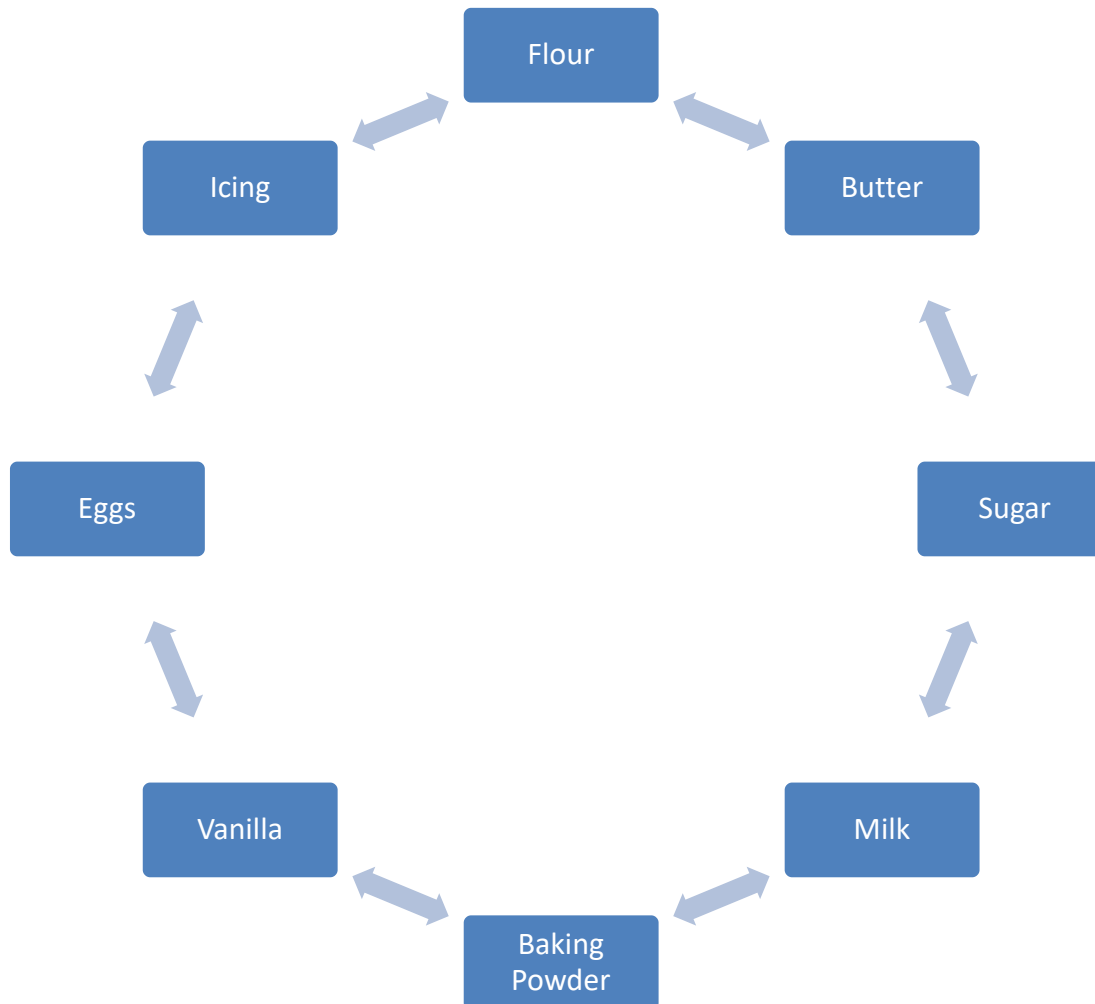
Evidence

- All evidence should be promptly turned over to the SRO.
- The SRO should document evidence as well as establish a chain of custody.
- Evidence should be logged and stored until needed for hearing, court case or until removal for purpose of destruction, upon receipt of disposition.
- Always take a picture of evidence. The picture should be added to the case report file. Administrators should also keep a copy of the picture for disciplinary hearings. No physical evidence should be brought to a disciplinary hearing.

End Product

- Each of us serve in a role. Each of us are responsible for providing the best overall product for our Students, Staff, Parents / Guardians, Guests and Communities.
- It is the combination of us all that creates the end product.
- We are ingredients to a greater cause; School Safety.

Analogy with Ingredients



Ingredients Do Not Combine themselves

- Be it by blender or by hand, ingredients must be whipped into a batter.
- The more whipping, the smoother the batter.
- Lastly, the batter must be placed in heat (Oven).
- Final Product



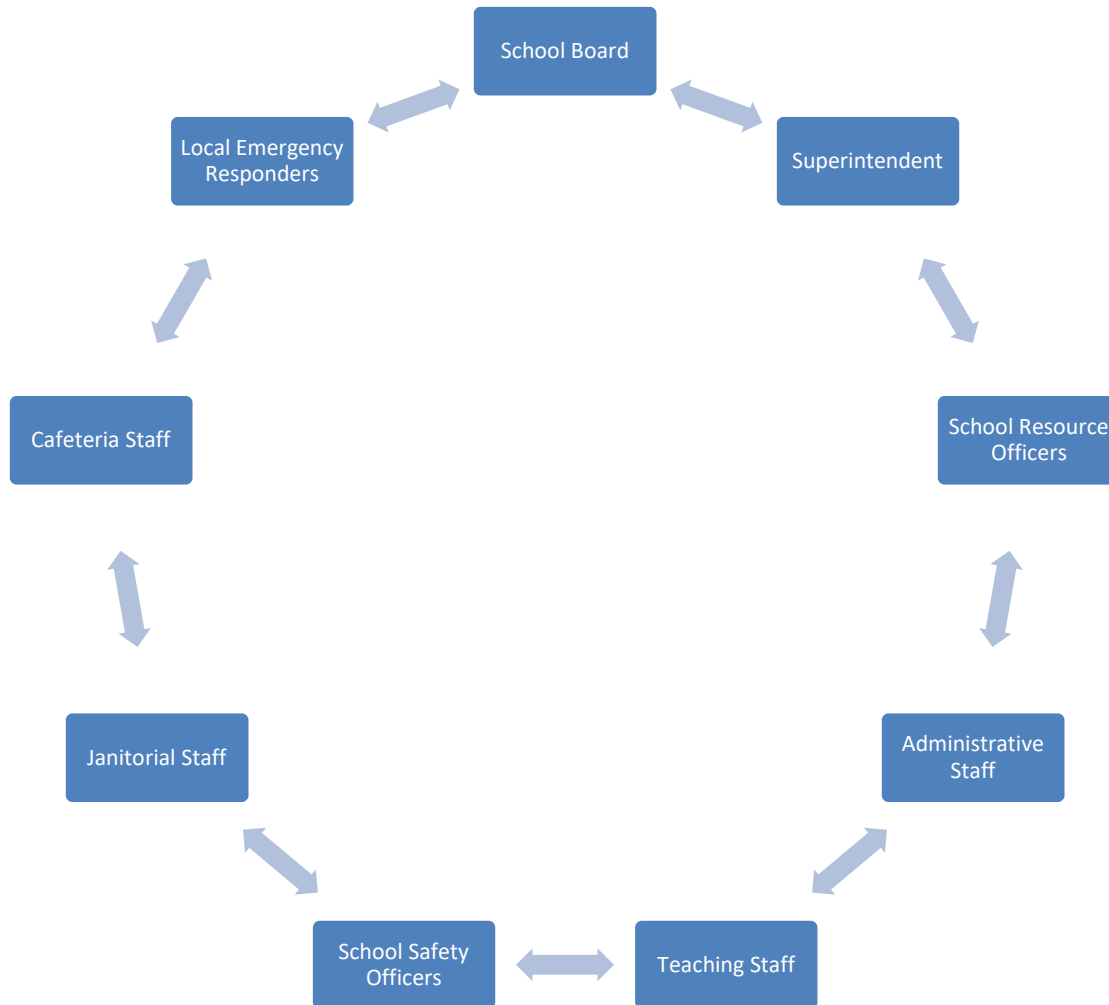
MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

Combined Ingredients



Analogy with School Personnel



School Personnel as Ingredients

- Be it by troubles, challenges or adversities, school personnel are whipped into collaboration.
- The more whipping, the smoother the collaboration.
- Lastly the collaboration must be proven by and to the Public.
- Final Product

Combined Efforts from Personnel

