**Resolution Template Re: School Policing Limits**

WHEREAS, the [school district name] has a responsibility to foster safe, healthy, and equitable schools that safeguard the physical and mental health of all students, especially those students who have been historically marginalized; and

WHEREAS, this responsibility creates an affirmative duty to protect students from the effects of racial bias and institutional racism within the [school district name]; and

WHEREAS, recent events illustrate the devastating consequences of failing to combat racial bias and institutional racism; and

WHEREAS, the [school district name] has implemented [local policies (restorative practice/trauma informed teaching/ culturally responsive pedagogy and curriculum etc.), if applicable] to foster positive school climates and affirm the worth of students from historically marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive national research shows that the use of school police is associated with several deleterious effects for students, including higher rates of exclusionary discipline in schools over time,[[1]](#endnote-1) higher rates of arrests for several types of offenses,[[2]](#endnote-2) and that the increased number of arrests in schools with police officers do not exist because of higher levels of misbehaviors by certain groups of students;[[3]](#endnote-3) and

WHEREAS, data show that Black students are significantly overrepresented in referrals to law enforcement across the country[[4]](#endnote-4) and, in [school district name], Black students and/or Latino students are [district specific data regarding referrals to law enforcement], increasing their risk of future involvement with the juvenile and adult criminal justice system to further exacerbate the school-to-prison pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of the incidents that result in funneling students into the school-to-prison pipeline can be more effectively addressed by other personnel within the school including counselors, social workers, teachers or administrators; and

WHEREAS, there are other effective, non-harmful methods of supporting the physical, mental, emotional, and social needs of students and adults while maintaining the safety and security of schools including the use of restorative practices, extracurricular programs, and collaborations with community-based organizations and services.

**Language for Ending a School Contract with an External Police Department**

• Immediate Termination (Similar to Minneapolis)[[5]](#endnote-5)

SO, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon approval of this Resolution, the [locality] Board of Education/Trustees directs the Superintendent of [locality] schools to take all necessary action to effectively terminate the Contract for Services with the [locality] Police Department for the service of School Resource Officers.

• Gradual Reduction to Termination (Similar to Denver)[[6]](#endnote-6)

SO, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon approval of this Resolution, the [locality] Board of Education/Trustees directs the Superintendent of [locality] schools to take all necessary action to reduce the number of School Resource Officers in schools by [specified percentage] by [specified date] and to terminate the Contract for Services with the [locality] Police Department for the service of School Resource Officers by no later than [specified date] or the end of the [2020-21] school year.

**Language for Renegotiating Agreement with External or Internal Police Departments**

SO, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon approval of this Resolution, the [locality] Board of Education/Trustees directs the Superintendent of [locality] schools to take all necessary action to renegotiate the Memorandum of Understanding between the [locality] Board of Education/Trustees and the [locality] Police Department to reflect the following changes. SROs should:

* Not be physically located inside school buildings or involved in the standard daily operating procedures of the school.
* Not be involved in enforcing routine discipline incidents.
* Be called as a last resort and only in the case of extreme emergency.
* De-escalate all interactions with students.
* Not serve as counselors, social workers, or mentors to students.
* Report every interaction and use of force incident with students that every school should use to collect, analyze and publish data. Schools should work with communities via school review boards comprised of teachers, students, and community members to address disparities illuminated by this data and specific incidents involving students and police.
* Not surveil or monitor the constitutionally protected free speech activities of students under the guise of threat assessment.
* Not arrest or ticket students for disciplinary incidents.
* Receive youth- focused training on topics including, but not limited to, adolescent development and behavior, de-escalation, implicit bias and restorative practices.

**Language to Promote Reallocation of School Funds**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of this Resolution, the [locality] Board of Education/Trustees directs the Superintendent of [locality] schools to reallocate funds that had previously been used to fulfill the Contract for Services with the [locality] Police Department for the service of School Resource Officers, to support in-district police departments, and to implement non-critical security and monitoring services toward resources that can be used to support the pro-social development of students including, but not limited to, counselors, mental health and physical health professionals, social workers, restorative practice experts, and other efforts determined in partnership with students, families and community support partnerships.

**Language to Create Task Force to Study Safety**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of this Resolution, the [locality] Board of Education/Trustees directs the Superintendent of [locality] schools to convene a Task Force by [specified date] to create a plan for ongoing safety efforts in the absence of the presence of school resource officers. This taskforce will be comprised of parents, students, teachers, school administrators and community members. This task force shall:

* Assess the safety and security needs of staff, students, and families and determine strategies that not only enhance safety but also promote student learning, social-emotional growth, mental and behavioral health, physical and nutritional wellbeing, and positive school climate within the school;
* Identify community-based resources and organizations that could partner with school districts to support students and families;
* Draft new policies and procedures to reflect conceptions of school safety that are supportive of the needs of students and families; and
* Craft an ongoing safe school plan with quantifiable equity goals and annual community review to assess progress toward those goals.

1. Fisher B.W., & Hennessy, E.A. (2016). “School Resource Officers and Exclusionary Discipline in U.S. High Schools: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,”*Adolescent Research Review*, 1, 217-233.; Brady K.P., Balmer, S., & Phenix, D. (2007). “School-Police Partnership Effectiveness in Urban Schools: An Analysis of New York City’s Impact Schools Initiative,”*Education and Urban Society,* 39, 455-478; Zhang, G. (2018). “The Effects of a School Policing Program on Crime, Discipline, and Disorder: A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation,”*American Journal of Criminal Justice,* 1-18. 10.1007/s12103-018-9440-z.   [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Na, C., & Gottfredson, D.C. (2013). “Police Officers in Schools: Effects on School Crime and the Processing of Offending Behaviors,”*Justice Quarterly,* 30, 619-650. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Hirschfield, P.J. (2018). “Schools and Crime,” *Annual Review of Criminology*, 1, 149-169. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Office for Civil Rights. (2019). 2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection, School Climate and Safety. U.S. Department of Education. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/school-climate-and-safety.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Minneapolis Board of Education, Special School District No. 1. (June 2, 2020). Resolution to Terminate the Contract for Services with the Minneapolis Police Department for the Services of School Resource Officers. <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=46459777> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. School District No 1 in the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado. (June 11, 2020). Resolution. <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/dpsk12/Board.nsf/files/BQGUND783ACE/%24file/Board%20Resolution%20re%20SROs_6.11.2020.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)