



FY 2019 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 69

BUDGET QUESTION: Is it possible for the schools to hire armed security at this time? Is it the case that the person hired must be a former law enforcement officer retired under good discharge conditions? Would such a position cost less than a SRO costs?

RESPONSE: While hiring retired law enforcement could be allowed, this is not a mandated standing rule. School systems can hire armed security guards if they are willing to accept the liability that goes along with such a move. While hiring retired law enforcement is allowed, the SRO should not be replaced with any armed security. That would take a step back from where the role of an SRO is a mentor and role model with students building a relationship that impacts the community. Who would be responsible for assuring security guards are properly trained and weapons qualified? Who would assure they are kept up-to-date on current emergency response and active shooter training? There are a lot of concerns relating to armed security guards in schools who act solely and independently in our school system where our children and the children of our community attend.

(Please note that due to the specialized subject matter of Budget Questions 66, 67, 68 and 69, the questions were referred to the Sheriff's Office and the answer provided is the unedited response from the Sheriff's Office.)