



FY 2019 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 71

BUDGET QUESTION: What statistics exist to inform us that SROs are the answer to student safety concerns? Are there mental health issues that could be addressed that would help more than putting SROs in the schools?

RESPONSE: Past events show that a School Resource Officer (SRO) who is assigned to a school can respond immediately to a threat. Additionally, as experienced in Spotsylvania at Riverbend High, having a SRO assigned to this school enabled him to create a rapport with students and prevent a potential dangerous situation.

Statistically there is no data on reduction in crime in schools due to reporting standards are different throughout the nation. Some schools report all crimes to the local police where other school systems determine what they want to report. There are numerous research articles that can be found on online that note the benefit of an assigned SRO. A SRO is only one part of a comprehensive approach involving school administration, threat assessments, and counseling that impact school safety and a productive learning environment.

Yes, when mental health issues are addressed and corrected, police officers in general may be reduced. Again, mental health is one part that impacts the safety of the schools that requires multiple partners by the community. We would be remiss if we did not take an active role in providing safety to our students by providing a SRO.

This response was provided by the Sheriff's Office.