



WEST SHORE S.D.

School Security

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

#WestShoreProud





SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Safe School Environments

Learning is most effective when schools are safe and welcoming environments for all students and staff.

Like other districts across the nation, we have seen an increase in fighting, disrespect, and substance abuse since our return to school this year.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Addressing School Safety

Since Fall 2021, the Board of School Directors and Administration have discussed multiple strategies to address student behavior and safety, particularly at our middle and high schools.

Most notably, we have explored the addition of school security personnel.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Purpose of Discussion

The District is interested in providing security personnel to its middle and high schools.

Options include:

- School Security Guards (SSG)
- School Police Officers (SPO)
- School Resource Officers (SRO)



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

District Partners

Local Law Enforcement

- Fairview Township Police Department
- Lower Allen Township Police Department
- New Cumberland Borough Police Department

MProtective Security, LLC

- Registered school security guard vendor



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

School Security Guards (SSG)

SSGs could be employees of the District, of a third-party provider, or through independent contractors.

- As defined by Pennsylvania law, SSGs are assigned to a school “for routine safety and security duties.”
- SSGs may or may not be armed.
- SSGs would likely have prior law enforcement background and training.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

School Security Guards (SSG)

- SSGs would receive mandatory training pertinent to their work in schools (ex. Basic School Resource Officer Training, Act 235 certification, Safe Crisis Management, Incident Command Training, etc.).
- SSGs would not have arrest power.
- SSGs would form relationships with students and staff in the same manner as School Police or School Resource Officers.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

School Police Officers (SPO)

SPOs could be employees of the District, of a third-party provider, or through independent contractors.

- **SPOs must...**

- Successfully complete **basic training** as required by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating to municipal police education and training) or have graduated from the **Pennsylvania State Police Academy**, been employed as a **State trooper** with the Pennsylvania State Police, and separated from that service in **good standing**; and



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

School Police Officers (SPO)

- **SPOs must (continued)...**
 - Successfully complete the **Basic School Resource Officer Course of Instruction** offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) or an equivalent course of instruction approved by PCCD. SPOs employed or contracted by a school entity or nonpublic school before September 2, 2019 have until the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year to complete this instruction.
 - Attend annual in-service training approved by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

School Resource Officers (SRO)

SROs are employees of the local municipality.

- SROs must complete the Basic School Resource Officer Course of Instruction offered by NASRO or an equivalent course of instruction approved by PCCD.
- SROs have full arrest powers, but those powers are limited to the municipality for which they are employed.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Policies and MOU

- The District would need to adopt a policy on School Security Personnel (805.2).
- The MOU with local law enforcement would also need updated to reflect whatever changes were implemented.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Insurance

- If the SSG or SPO are **District employees**, then our current policy provides coverage.
- If the SSG or SPO are **independent contractors**, we would need to purchase an additional policy, which would cost approximately \$1,200 for each SSG or SPO.
- If the SSG or SPO are through a **third-party vendor** or if a SRO, then the vendor or municipality would carry the coverage.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Costs

- If SSG or SPO are **District employees**, then District would pay all salaries, benefits, equipment, and training costs.
- If SSG or SPO are **not District employees**, then District would pay a negotiated rate for salaries, benefits, equipment, and training costs.
- If SRO **employed by the local municipality**, then the District would be responsible for approximately 75% of the cost of the officer, based on the split with the local municipality.



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Option Comparison

	School Security Guard (SSG)	School Police Officers (SPO)	School Resource Officers (SRO)
Employment	District, third-party provider, or independent contractors	District, third-party provider, or independent contractors	employees of local municipality
Background	likely have prior law enforcement background	prior law enforcement background	current law enforcement officers
Armed	may or may not be	yes	yes
Arrest Power	no	yes, in all the District schools	yes, but limited to their municipality



SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OPTIONS

Coordination of Efforts

Regardless of model, i.e., SSG, SPO, or SRO, a strong, collaborative relationship is needed between all parties.





WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Security

Question and Answer