**RELATIONSHIP**

**WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT** *Policy Code:* **5120**

The board recognizes the importance of law enforcement authorities in providing safe schools. The board desires an effective working relationship with law enforcement. To this end, the executive director is expected to communicate the needs of the school and work with law enforcement officials in developing joint programs and in establishing protocols for handling situations in which the assistance of law enforcement is helpful or necessary. The executive director shall establish procedures for school contacts with law enforcement agencies.

The executive director shall ensure that local law enforcement have schematic diagrams, including digital schematic diagrams, of all school facilities and provide them updates of the schematic diagrams when the school system makes substantial facility modifications, such as the addition of new facilities or modifications to doors or windows. The executive director shall also provide local law enforcement with (1) either keys to the main entrance of the school building or emergency access to key storage devices for the school building and (2) updated access to the school building when changes are made to the locks of the main entrance or to the key storage device.

School resource officers will be assigned duties as specified in a written understanding between the law enforcement agency and the school.

Law enforcement officials, including school resource officers, should not initiate administrative investigations, including investigations to determine whether scholar behavior policies have been violated, but may be used to assist school officials in such investigations for safety or other reasons as determined necessary by the executive director or designee. Law enforcement officials may be contacted to report possible criminal conduct on school premises or at school-sponsored activities. (See policy 4335, Criminal Behavior, for more information regarding mandatory reporting of certain criminal behaviors.)  However, school officials will independently investigate violations of school rules or board policies even if such violations may also involve criminal behavior.

All school employees are expected to cooperate in criminal investigations but should attempt to do so in a way that minimizes disruptions to the educational environment. Visits by probation officers to scholars during the school day must be in accordance with policy 5020, Visitors to the Schools.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-238.66(7b), -105.53

Cross References: School Safety (policy 1510/4200/7270), Criminal Behavior (policy 4335), Scholar Searches (policy 4342), Visitors to the School (policy 5020)

Adopted: May 27, 2020

Revised: June 8, 2022