



# PROTECTING STUDENTS & STAFF IN PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS



The Palm Beach County School District has operated a fully accredited School Police Department since 1972 and dedicates \$30 million of funding, annually, for the School Police Department.

School Police Officers are invested in the lives of students and the activities of their assigned school. By creating relationships with students, School Police Officers become a trusted adult for students.

The District's continued focus on school safety includes:

## School Police Officer on Every Campus

Currently, the District has **more than 200 School Police Officers** and more are being hired each month.

The District also has partner contracts with 13 local municipalities, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and Florida Highway Patrol, to ensure every school, every day, has a law enforcement officer protecting the campus.

School Police Officers received a substantial pay raise in 2018, giving them the second highest hourly wage of all law enforcement agencies in Palm Beach County (ranked behind the City of Boca Raton Police Department).



## Single point of entry campuses

Eighteen single point of entry construction projects were completed during the summer of 2018 with the penny sales tax. The School Police Department has worked with all school principals to ensure all visitors to campus enter the campus through just one single location.

## School Police Aides

For the 2018-2019 school year, The District has funded around 50 Police Aides to add additional security and support to large campuses, including monitoring the perimeter and parking lots.

## Crisis Response Teams

The District and school campuses have crisis response teams that include a School Police Officer as a member of the team. The Crisis Response Teams respond to the mental health needs of high risk students and traumatic events on campus.

## School Police K-9s

Currently, the School Police Department has 2 dogs that are trained to detect weapons and another is in training. Additionally, there are 4 working narcotics dogs, 1 bloodhound for missing persons, and 1 bomb dog.



## New School Police patrol cars

Sixty School Police cars were recently added to the fleet.

## Highly Skilled School Police Officers

During the summer months, School Police Officers receive 160 hours of specialized training. All School Police Officers are trained in active shooter response.

## Cost of school security this year

The District has budgeted **\$10 million** above what the state has allocated in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Bill to ensure an officer on every campus for the 2018 school year.

Combined with regularly budgeted funds for School Police, the District will expend over \$30 million for school policing this year.



## See Something, Say Something

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has a See Something Say Something App called Student Protect PBC, that reports tips in real time to School Police and the Sheriff's Office.

## What to Do If You See a Social Media Threat

1. Take a screenshot of the threat. DO NOT send it or share it except with law enforcement or a school administrator.
2. Call School Police (561) 434-8700 or your local law enforcement agency and report the image.
3. You can also send the image through the Student Protect App.

## Additional Supports for Students and Families

The District maintains **31** behavioral health agreements with community partner agencies to provide services to students.

All School Principals have participated in Youth Mental Health First Aid training which is designed to teach adults how to better identify and help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health challenge. During the 2019-20 school year, all staff will be asked to participate in the program.

The District also employs School Counselors, School Psychologists, and Behavioral/Mental Health Professionals as well as School Social Workers who offer support to our students. Thanks to the voter-approved 1 mill tax levy, the District has started recruiting nationwide for additional professionals in these areas.

## Where to Turn for Help

If parents/guardians are seeking help for their child they can call their school and request to speak to a School Counselor.

At any time, students can ask to speak to an adult on campus including a School Police Officer or a School Counselor.



## Other Resources

**Student Crime Stoppers:** 1-800-458-TIPS (8477)

**Suicide Help Line:** 1-800-273-8255



@SchoolPolicePBC

[www.palmbeachschools.org/schoolpolice](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/schoolpolice)