



Champaign Police Department 2013 Annual Report



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM 2012-2013 School Year

The 2012-2013 school year was the seventh year of the School Resource Officer Program. The SROs continue to serve the District as law enforcement officers, law-related counselors, and as law-related education teachers.

Our SROs are officers who have received specialized training designed to enhance the abilities of the school resource officers and focus on the specific task of an SRO. All SROs are certified juveniles officers who receive ongoing training throughout the year.

Historically, the SROs have spent very little time actually enforcing laws within the schools. Previous data collected with the School Cops software indicated that SROs spent approximately 3% of their time dealing with issues directly related to criminal offenses.

The School Cops software is no longer compatible with current computer operating systems and is no longer in use. Data is now collected from the department's records management system, which is typically referred to as A.R.M.S. A.R.M.S. data indicates that arrests and police reports have decreased over the years. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume the SROs are devoting 3% or less of their shift to addressing criminal behavior.

Historical data has indicated that the majority of the SROs time is devoted to issues that can best be described as crime prevention or order maintenance within their respective schools. For example, SROs teach classes on topics such as;

- health
- gun violence
- alcohol and underage drinking
- driver education
- The Law and You

SROs frequently provide counseling to students who may be having issues at home and/or school. These issues may or may not be crime related and often times are issues the SRO has identified and addressed before it has the opportunity to result in criminal behavior.

Over the years, the SROs have developed "super-strong" relationships with neighbors around the school. SROs frequently work with surrounding neighborhoods to address school/student related issues such as loitering, trash, loud music, parking, and driving issues.



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With the SROs being in the schools they are readily available to help students and staff with vehicle issues like flat tires, dead batteries, keys locked in car, etc. The SROs are typically able to assist or make the appropriate contacts to assist with issues that would normally not be a police matter. These are the "customer service" practices that are expected from all officers with the Champaign Police Department.

This year the SROs were tasked with additional projects to assist the district and the department. The SRO's collaborated on reviewing and updating the school safety assessments and made recommendations for improvements to the District.

The SROs also participated in revising CPDs school safety plans and with preparing new emergency response plans to be used by patrol for emergency responses to the schools and administrative buildings.

The SROs also developed the curriculum for a new project called Police 101. Simply stated, Police 101 is a project designed to inform the adult public of what the police do in certain situations and why they do it. The focus was on topics that the public may be generally aware of but may not be informed of what exactly leads the police to deal with these specific topics in the manner with which they do. These topics were focused on practical scenarios involving officer safety, use of force, dealing with subjects with mental health issues, and decision making during a rapid evolving stressful event.

The initial Police 101 class consisted of eight participants from the community. The participants ranged in age from 20-50, were both male and female, some were college students, two were employed by local media, others from the medical field and some retired. The classes were held one night per-week at the ILEAS Training Center and lasted four weeks.

The first Police 101 program is currently being evaluated and updated with plans for a future class proceeding forward.



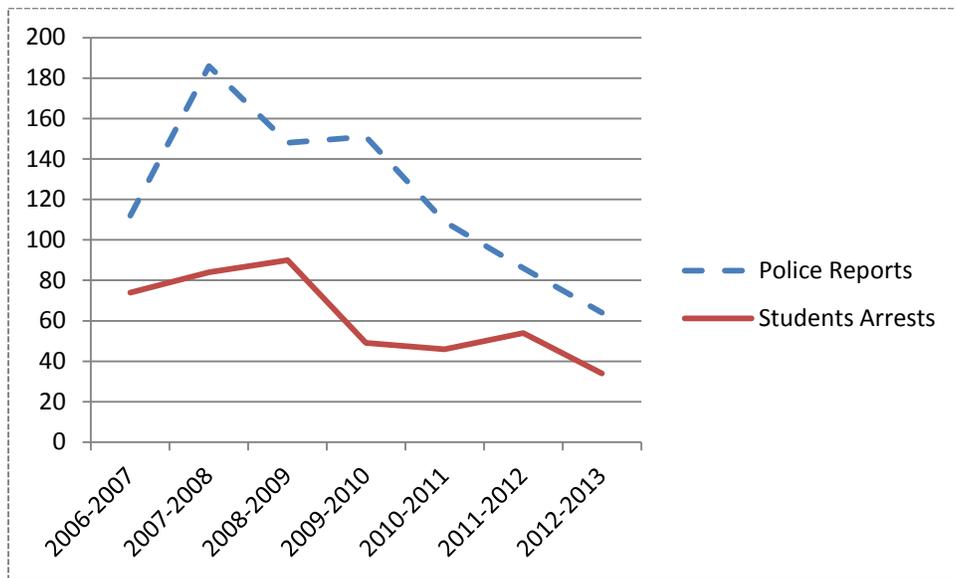
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SRO Arrest and Report Data

During the 2012-2013 school year, the SROs documented 64 police reports and made 34 custodial arrests of students. A custodial arrest is defined as an individual being taken into police custody for a criminal offense and transported to the Champaign County Jail or the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center.

The 2012-2013 custodial arrests and police reports are the lowest numbers since the inception of the SRO program. The chart below illustrates the number of police reports generated and students arrested by the SROs from the very beginning of the program.



Data also indicates that Centennial and Central are primarily responsible for the vast majority of all reports generated by the SROs.

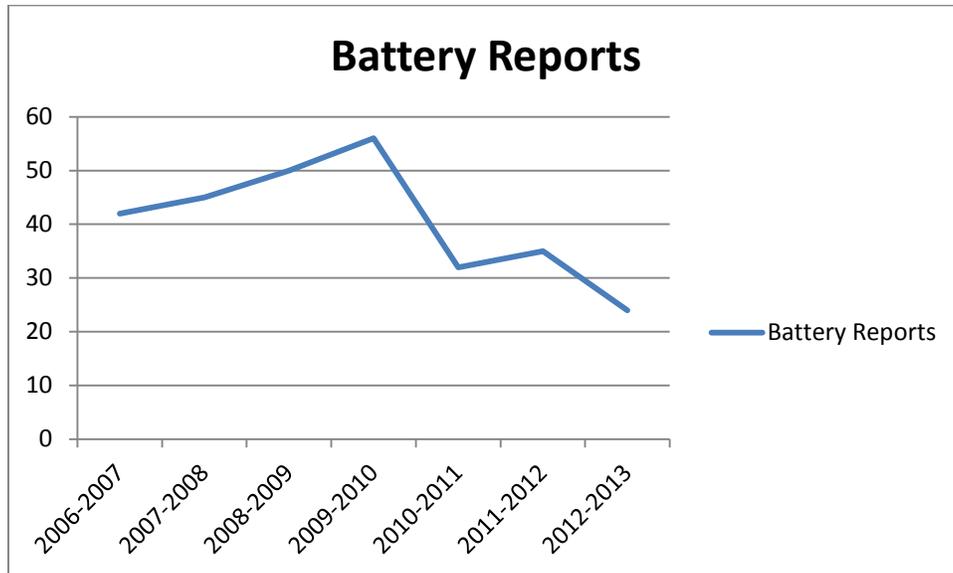
- Edison 4
- Franklin 5
- Jefferson 6
- Centennial 26
- Central 23



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The most common criminal offense committed at the schools where SROs are present is battery. During the first year of the program there were 42 batteries documented, but during the 2012-2013 school year there were only 24. The other most frequently committed offenses are drug offenses and disorderly conduct, which are normally in the single digits as far as number of times documented.



If the success of the school resource program were measured simply by using data showing the decrease in the number of incidents, reports, and arrests then the program would have to be labeled as a success. However, success should also be evaluated in ways that are difficult to measure, such as how the SRO impacts the students in the schools. There is no data available that can measure the relationships formed, the lives of students impacted in a positive way, the conflicts resolved or potential crimes averted because an SRO was already present at that particular moment in time to take the appropriate action.



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