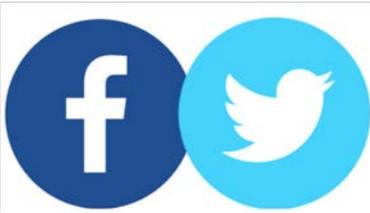




NSBA Annual Conference

Don't forget to register for the NSBA Annual Conference!

Also, ISBA will be hosting a boxed luncheon for Indiana attendees at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown on Saturday, March 30, from 12:00 – 2:00pm.



ISBA is on Social Media!

ISBA has joined the Facebook and Twitter worlds! Be sure to follow us, as we'll be posting exclusive content on our pages!

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ISBA IN THE NEWS

[Lawmakers' cheap stunt costly blow to schools](#)

(Journal Gazette)

[Indiana lawmaker who employs hundreds of minors pushes to scrap state child labor laws](#)

(Indy Star)

[A GOP lawmaker wants to repeal child labor laws in his state. He employs hundreds of minors.](#) (Washington Post)

[Indiana could overhaul how it grades schools. That's news to us, graders say.](#) (Indy Star)

School Resource Officers - Duties and Agreements

by Julie M. Slavens, ISBA Staff Attorney (jslavens@isba-ind.org)

During the past few months, many school corporations are considering ways to improve the security of buildings and the safety of students and staff members. An option being considered is the utilization of School Resource Officers (SROs). Six years ago the Indiana General Assembly passed a law allowing a school corporation to use SROs as part of its safety and security plan. The provisions of this law set out of the duties, powers, qualifications, training requirements, and employment arrangements of a SRO. The law defines a SRO to be an individual who has completed the minimum training requirements of the Indiana law enforcement training board for law enforcement officers; has received at least forty (40) hours of certified school resource officer training; and is employed by a school corporation or is assigned to a school corporation by a law enforcement agency or a sheriff. (See I.C. 20-26-18.2)

By law, the duties of a SRO focus on school safety issues and include assisting the school safety specialist with the development and implementation of the school safety plan, protecting against outside threats to the physical safety of students, preventing unauthorized access to school property; and securing the schools against violence and natural disasters. The law is clear the central function of a SRO is safety and security. In carrying out this central function, one of the responsibilities of the SRO is to develop relationships with the student and staff. The SRO's function is not as a disciplinarian, but to promote safe and secure learning environments in the school corporation.

The law allows for the SRO to carrying out additional responsibilities assigned to the SRO through the employment arrangement and requires a written document to state the nature and scope of the SRO's duties and responsibilities. The written arrangement should provide specific details of situations the SRO should be involved with respect to student disruption or issues in a classroom or other areas of the school, including the school personnel who can request the aid of the SRO. The agreement should also address the SRO involvement in student discipline matters such as the SRO's responsibility to investigate student misconduct and when the SRO will conduct searches. SROs can also be used for security purposes at school-sponsored events such as athletic events or school plays; these duties should also be included in the written agreement. While by law the SRO has the authority to arrest a person, the agreement should include provisions addressing the specific circumstances a SRO may do so. When determining the duties of the SRO, school corporations and law enforcement agencies should keep in mind given the public policy of the law, the function of the SRO is that of a safety and security presence and not of a police officer. The written agreement setting out the specific duties of the SRO aids the SRO, the school administration, the school board, the school staff, and the students to better understand the role of the SRO in the school setting.

(Cont'd from page 2)

Other Requirements

If the superintendent holds a traditional superintendent license, the contract that is signed by the school board and the superintendent must be in the form of the regular teacher contract prescribed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The parties may include an addendum to that contract that establishes additional terms and conditions of employment. (IC 20-28-8-6.)

While the superintendent's contract is considered to be a public record that is "open to inspection by the residents of the school corporation," the superintendent's contract must also be posted on the school corporation's Internet website. (IC 20-28-6-2 and IC 20-26-5-4.5.) documents. The school corporation further asserted that if the records themselves had to be disclosed, excessive redaction from the documents would be required.