

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Update

2026 SRO Program Assessment



Officer Introductions & Program Evaluation Process

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Duluth Police Department Officers

SRO Program Engagement Sites:

- **Denfeld High School** (DHS)
- **East High School** (EHS)
- **Lincoln Park Middle School** (LPMS)
- **Ordean East Middle School** (OEMS)

EVALUATION TIMELINE & PROCESS

Committee Process

The SRO committee met **twice** during this past school year to assess program effectiveness under the new contract.

- 1. Fall Kick-off & Strategy:** Reviewed the new contract **(2025-28)** and established our comprehensive feedback collection framework.
- 2. Ongoing Engagement:** Adelle Wellens & Jen Larva conducted focus groups at Denfeld & East High Schools to launch the **Thought Exchange** for students & families.
- 3. Spring Review:** Met to synthesize information, review qualitative data, and analyze SRO checklist rankings completed by building principals.

SRO Program Strengths

Engagement & Site Success

SROs successfully met expectations across all sites (**DHS, EHS, LPMS, OEMS**) for relationship building and safety support. Key 2025-26 metrics include:

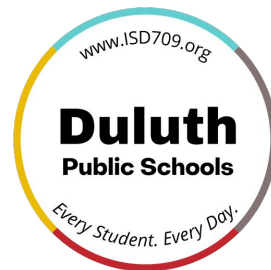
- **114** student visit requests fulfilled & **144** student groups met with
- **218** requests to visit classrooms & **110** after-school events attended
- Consistent, collaborative participation on site safety teams

Student Security & Safety

Student feedback highlights strong confidence in physical safety and active, supportive intervention during campus events.

Documented De-escalation Success

SROs achieved proven resolution outcomes in managing and de-escalating critical school incidents, including student fights, vaping infractions, and behavioral crisis.



Areas for Continued Improvement

While overall perception is positive, the 2026 assessment identified key challenges:

Uneven Visibility

Blind-spots exist in specific "hot-spot" areas, such as bathrooms and corners without staff coverage.

Unclear Roles

The SRO educational function is inconsistent, and family awareness of the SRO's scope and limits is minimal.

Equity Gaps

Some students and non-binary/BIPOC respondents report feeling unheard or unsure of SRO support in conflict situations.

Where Can I Learn More About the SRO Program?

 **Official SRO Web Portal**

School Resource Officer Program Page

Explore the comprehensive contract details, program evaluations, site engagement statistics, and community feedback updates on the Duluth Public Schools website.

Navigation: isd709.org > **About Us** > **School Resource Officers**



The Bottom Line

Student voices in 2026 remain **largely supportive** of the SRO program, citing heightened safety and positive daily interactions.

Attention to **equity**, consistent **educational outreach**, and deeper **family engagement** will move the program from "good" to "exemplary".

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Thank you for your partnership and dedication to student safety.

