

Plano Independent School District
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**PLANO ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES RESOLUTION TO
ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY IN COMPLIANCE WITH NEW LAW**

Plano, TX, August 8, 2023 – Maintaining the safety and security of all students and staff as a top priority, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution tonight that will allow the district to begin the process of implementing a school marshal program. The resolution is in response to the 88th Texas Legislature’s approval of House Bill 3 (HB 3), requiring public school districts to provide armed security personnel at every campus during regular school hours. HB 3 was signed into law on June 14, 2023, and is effective September 1.

Currently, Plano ISD maintains school resource officers (SROs) at the secondary level, grades 6-12, and daily rotations at elementary schools through local law enforcement agencies. The resolution will allow the district to develop and implement an alternative program on campuses that do not currently have SROs.

As Plano ISD works toward fully implementing and staffing the school marshal program, the district will continue to provide safety and security services in partnership with its municipalities and in accordance with existing shared agreements. Plano ISD has a close working relationship with the police departments that protect and serve its 73 schools across five cities: Plano, Richardson, Murphy, Dallas and Allen. These departments have always been, and will continue to be partners with the district in school safety.

Plano ISD is proud to be served by police departments across five municipalities:



“As Plano ISD works to comply with HB3, the Plano Police Department will continue our community policing school security program which involves patrol officers conducting two security checks daily at each elementary school,” said Plano Police Chief Ed Drain. “We will also work closely with Plano ISD on ongoing training of their school marshals once the program is up and running.”

Under the provisions of HB 3, school districts are allowed to declare a good cause exception if unable to fulfill the security officer positions due to a lack of funding or qualifying personnel. For both Plano ISD and its local police departments, the most pressing challenge is timing for implementation in regards to the availability of police officers, as well as the time it would take to train new officers to fulfill this requirement with an expanded SRO program. The hiring and training cycle for each new officer is approximately 18 months. To fill the estimated 50 required positions with SROs could take two to four years. Plano ISD administrators anticipate that the implementation of the marshal program will allow the district to meet the requirements of the new law in a more timely manner. Regarding adequate funding, HB 3 will provide \$15,000 per campus and an increase in the safety allotment of only 28 cents per average daily attendance, resulting in an estimated \$1.1 million gain for Plano ISD. However, the cost of hiring and maintaining security officers will be an additional expense of approximately \$4.1 million to Plano ISD.

Despite the police workforce shortages and budgetary challenges, Plano ISD and its municipalities remain committed to collectively providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff. The alternative security program will be thoughtfully designed to integrate with the district’s existing safety and security measures and protocols.

“Keeping our students safe is always our top priority in Plano ISD and we want to assure our community that we will implement these new requirements with fidelity,” said Superintendent Dr. Theresa Williams.

School Board President Nancy Humphrey added, “We are so grateful for the relationships we share with the local law enforcement agencies that serve our schools. They have always been committed to helping us maintain safe schools. As we implement the new school marshal program, we are confident in their continued support and partnership.”

About the School Marshal Program

- The school marshal positions will be filled for the explicit purpose of school safety, separate from teachers or other instructional staff.
- Plano ISD will post the school marshal positions on the website and interviews with candidates are expected to begin August 28.

- Once hired, candidates will be added to the School Marshal Training Course waitlist.
- The district will work to obtain School Marshal licenses for hirees who meet qualifications and successfully complete the training requirements.
- The school marshal program is licensed and regulated through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, which is the same agency that licenses and regulates all police officers in the state.
- School marshals must:
 - Possess and maintain a Texas License to Carry
 - Pass a psychological exam
 - Complete 80 hours of initial training and 16 hours of refresher training every 2 years (Plano ISD would require additional ongoing training)

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) (www.pisd.edu) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,500 staff members who serve nearly 50,000 students in 73 schools and 11 service facilities. Mission: Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.

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