

Laurie Putnam

Superintendent of St. Cloud Area School District
320-370-8001
laurie.putnam@isd742.org

Tami DeLand

Director of Community Engagement and Communications
320-370-8115
tami.deland@isd742.org

St. Cloud Area School District Responds to Change in SRO Agreement

Today local law enforcement agencies announced their intention to indefinitely suspend the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with St. Cloud Area School District 742 in regard to School Resource Officers (SRO) for the 2023-24 school year. The decision comes in response to recent changes in state statute.


Like many districts across Minnesota, District 742 has formal agreements with local police departments, specifically St. Cloud, St. Joseph and Waite Park, that provide School Resource Officers located inside the schools. The primary role of these specially trained officers is to protect students and staff during the school day and often during school-sponsored events on evenings and weekends. Additionally, they often teach students about personal safety, mentor and support students, and assist with community-related safety issues.

"In the Greater St. Cloud Area, our relationships with local police departments have existed for many years," says Superintendent Laurie Putnam, "and we greatly appreciate and value the support our School Resource Officers provide."

Regarding the change, Putnam emphasizes, "our mutual commitment to school safety remains," while acknowledging that going forward support from law enforcement in the schools will look different.

Law enforcement personnel will be present during the school day and at public school-sponsored evening and weekend events when it is determined there is a need for public-safety support. However, officers will likely be in full uniform and no longer engage in educational programming.

Putnam reminds families that safety in the schools requires a multi-faceted approach including mutual commitment to building strong relationships by staff, students and families as well as strategies that focus on the buildings and grounds, such as controlled and monitored entrances, locked doors, the screening and monitoring of visitors and supervision throughout the schools.



“Along with local law enforcement, our priority is student and staff safety,” Putnam says. “That has not, and will not, change.”

#

About St. Cloud Area School District 742

The mission of the St. Cloud Area School District is to create a safe and caring climate and culture in which we prepare, engage, educate, empower and inspire all learners in partnership with their community to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society. Our caring and committed staff members deliver learning for a lifetime to a diverse population of students in nine St. Cloud area communities. District 742 is the largest school district in Central Minnesota, proudly sharing the gift of education with over 10,000 students each school day.

Located 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, we bring the world's ideas into every schoolroom. Our licensed staff, nearly 70 percent of whom have advanced degrees, teach challenging classes that use the latest technology as well as tried-and-true instructional methods. District 742 has eight elementary schools, three middle level schools (6-8), two high schools (9-12), three alternative learning schools, an early childhood center and a community education center. The high schools offer an array of AP courses and other opportunities to prepare students for post-secondary education. Students are encouraged to participate in their choice of athletic, scholarly and fine arts activities.

