

School Police

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Police In Schools

- School Resource Officers (SRO's)
- Are they helpful?
- Helpful to schools, police, students?

Potential Impacts

- Prevent mass shootings
- Reduce crime
- Increase crime by criminalizing normal behavior especially among minorities
- Drug awareness, addiction prevention
- Promote ungrounded fear of cannabis
- Intimidate students who experienced bad police
- Emotionally connect police and students
- Increase student feelings of safety

From MinnehahaCounty.org

- Education programs and instruction
- Crime prevention and reporting
- Campus security and safety
- Traffic enforcement
- Investigate school-related crimes
- Maintain Neighborhood Watch Program

Sioux Falls Police View

- Nice long call with Lieutenant Jason Leach
- Police, schools like the program
- In elementary, middle, high schools
- Most important to maintain safe environment
- Sometimes arrest kids without physical custody
- State's Attorney has a diversion program to avoid juvenile jail
- Minor problems resolved with a class
- Build camaraderie between officers and students

Online Question

- Is it helpful to have police in schools?
- Responses ranged from ambivalent to very critical
- "Why There's A Push To Get Police Out Of Schools" on www.npr.org
- "millions of students, especially students of color, attend schools that have police officers, but no nurse or school psychologist" – not in Sioux Falls
- "Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and having mental health counselors and other support staff available when students are acting out"

Human Issues

- Authority and power are intimidating
- Hard to talk to your boss' boss
- Police, guns, principals all intimidating
- School (and work!) can already feel like prison on a beautiful spring day

Student Viewpoint

- Needs to be determined
- Let's take a survey
- Do you like having police in your school?
- Do you feel safer with police in school?
- Are you intimidated with police in school?
- Would it help if school cops did not carry weapons?
- How can police connect with students?

Recommendations

- Ask students how they feel
- Emphasize mental health & social welfare over law enforcement
- Continue, modify, or stop having police in schools

Enjoy The Sunset

