

# Law Enforcement in Schools

- George Little
- Director, ICJS
- Center for Safe Communities & Schools
- [www.cscs.txstate.edu](http://www.cscs.txstate.edu)
- 877.204.2727

## School-based Law Enforcement History

- 1950's Officer Friendly
  - Flint, Michigan, 1958 first time police assigned– positive attitude
- 1960's undercover officers & beginning of School Police
  - Tucson, Arizona, 1963 – goal improve relations
  - Saginaw, Michigan, 1966 – more than one school
  - Cincinnati, Ohio, 1969 – minimal LE activity, education focus
- 1970's & 1980's Expansion
  - School Liaison Officers & Law-related education
- 1990's DARE other prevention education programs
- 2000's ISD Police & SRO's
- The Future – SBLE officers

# Schools Today

- **Rage/violence incidents**
- **Columbine to NIU**
- **SLO's to SRO's to SBLE's**
- **Community policing**
- **Schools mirror society**

- **Schools are safer with the presence of law enforcement.**
- **What's the best school-based policing philosophy?**

# Officers in Schools

- **Build healthy relationships**
- **Provide useful prevention strategies for students, parents and educators**
- **Teach positive decision-making skills**
- **Provide a safer school and community**

# Old School vs SBLE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ LE comes when called                  | ▪ SBLE officers assigned to campus                           |
| ▪ School decides when to call           | ▪ SBLE officer helps decide priorities                       |
| ▪ Emergency Planning w/o LE involvement | ▪ SBLE Officers involved in Assessments & EOP's              |
| ▪ LE role limited to enforcement        | ▪ SBLE's do PIE  |
| ▪ School see LE involvement as failure  | ▪ School officials welcome SBLE officers as part of solution |

# IACP Philosophy

- **Law enforcement presence**  
*Prevention*
- **Problem-solving strategies**  
*Intervention*
- **Problem-oriented policing**  
*Enforcement*

## SBLE Officers: What

- **Prevention**
- **Intervention**
- **Enforcement**

# Prevention

- **Maintain a visible presence on campus**
- **Model professional law enforcement standards**
- **Provide education programs including Conflict Resolution**
- **Provide staff in-service on public safety issues**
- **Provide parent programs**
- **Provide civic and community programs**
- **Provide crime prevention assistance**
- **CPTED**
- **Assist with safety exercises and drills**

# Intervention

- **Build positive relationships with students & parents**
- **Be responsive to student needs**
- **Bridge school and community services**
- **Work closely with school-based counselors**
- **Refer students and parents to counselors**
- **Participate in School Safety Assessment**
- **Member of Emergency Operations Team**

# Enforcement

- Necessity
- Problem-solving tool
- Notify school officials of all enforcement activity
- Provide due process for victims and suspects
- Document and address all criminal violations
- Provide emergency law enforcement services to imminent threatening and dangerous situations
- Participate in Active Shooter Team

# Trends

- School & Community are ONE
- SBLE opportunity for good PR with youth
  - Proactive vs. Reactive
- School Officials need SBLE officers
- Community Policing is the future
- Safe Schools are Learning Schools

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