



Wilkes-Barre Area School District Police Department



The Wilkes-Barre Area School District recognizes the need for intervention and prevention in an effort to reduce crime among juveniles in school-based settings. The issue of creating safe schools is a concern shared by the community. Children find it difficult to learn and teachers cannot teach if violence is present in their schools. Our children and our teachers have a right to expect their schools to be safe and to be a place where individuals are not threatened, intimidated or victimized.

To meet that need the District has placed ten full-time school police officers (SPO) into the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The District's School Police Department's sole mission is to enhance the safety and security of all schools within the District. The department is recognized by the Pennsylvania State Police and has been granted its own ORI number. Serving the school community to enhance the safety and security of all schools within the District. All of the officers have the same powers exercised under authority of law or ordinance by the local police department which serves and protects the area or locale where the school police officer is required to act.

All school police officers serving the department are graduates of the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Academy and have accumulated many years of experience in the law enforcement field. Serving proudly, they are committed to protecting and serving the school community and its stakeholders.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Personnel

Security Greeters – visitor management

Contracted Security Officers – prevention of prohibited items, monitor select areas, enforce directives pertaining to daily operations and special events.

School Police Officers – ultimate responsibility is carrying their duties as police officers. Additional duties include enforcing good order and maintaining a peaceful school environment, mentoring troubled youth and educating the public on law enforcement related topics.

Security Plan

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District has prepared a Safety and Security Plan that takes a systems-based approach to layered school security.

General Subject areas include:

- **Physical Security**
- **Prohibited Items Control**
- **Access Management**
- **Threat Assessment**
- **Cyber Security**

Planning elements include **Prevention, Protection & Mitigation , Response & Recovery**

Emergency Operations

Emergency Operations Plan – all schools maintain an emergency operations plan that is reviewed annually and distributed to county Emergency Management Agencies, Law Enforcement and First Responder Agencies.

Drills – all schools participate in response drills to include: Fire Emergencies, Building Evacuation, Relocation & Reunification, Active Shooter Response Protocol, Emergency Lock Down, Lockout, Restricted Movement Order, and Severe Weather Response.

Threat Assessment

The District maintains threat assessment teams both at the school and district level. Members include building Principals, Guidance Counselors, School Nurses, School Police Officers; as well as District Administrators and other personnel as needed. The goal of the team is to keep everyone safe and work with a student making a threat before they act.

Safe 2 Say Something

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District participates in the Anonymous reporting system known as Safe 2 Say Something. Information can be obtained from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District web site.



Community Service

The District offers an alternative disposition for those students who may have been cited for a Criminal Offense. Rather than paying a fine for a non-traffic citation an individual, may be ordered, by the District Court, to perform community service. Community Service would be performed at one of the District Schools on a scheduled date and time.

School Police Department Contact Information Dial Main Number 570-826-7111 + Extension

Police Administration

Chief Carl Gembitski Ext 1124

WB Area High School

SGT Brett Smith Ext 8211

SPO Michelle Moore Ext 8299

SPO Mark Phillips Ext 8335

Solomon Plains Complex

SPO Kaitlyn Camillocci Ext 3625

G.A.R Middle School

SPO Jeffrey Lutz Ext 5107

Dodson@Mackin Elementary School

SPO Barry Jacob Ext 2307

Kistler Elementary School

SPO James Sheridan Ext 7124

Flood Elementary School

SPO Edward Mishanski Ext 4165

Heights Elementary School

SPO David Sobocinski Ext 6108

In the event of an emergency dial 911