

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

Meeting Date: January 13, 2014

AGENDA ITEM No. 14-01-11

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: School Resource Officer Grant

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Gerri P. Martín, Superintendent **PHONE:** 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS:

1. School Resource Officer Matching Grants 2013 – Request For Proposals

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to provide information on the Elementary School Resource Officer Grant received by the district.

BACKGROUND: Session Law 2013-360 (See below Section 8.36) allocated \$7 million in grants to LEAs for school resource officers (SROs) in elementary and middle schools on the basis of \$2 in-state funds for every \$1 in local funds. It directed the State Board of Education (SBE) to include need-based considerations in its criteria for awarding these grants. The need-based considerations used to determine the award included Low Wealth, Small County, and School Crime Rate. The Safe and Healthy Schools Support Division of DPI created the grant applications and has overseen the grant competition.

The funding is recurring, meaning that the grant will likely be provided for at least two years pending potential further legislative action.

SECTION 8.36. Grants to local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools for school resource officers in elementary and middle schools shall be matched on the basis of two dollars (\$2.00) in State funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in local funds and shall be used to supplement and not to supplant State, local, and federal funds for school resource officers.

The State Board of Education shall include need-based considerations in its criteria for awarding these grants to local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools.

Local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools may use these funds to employ school resource officers in elementary and middle schools, to train them, or both. Any such training shall include instruction on research into the social and cognitive development of elementary school and middle school children.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$80,000 granted from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Safe and Healthy Schools Support Division.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education receive the School Resource Officer Grant Report for information.

School Resource Officer Matching Grants

2013 (Supplemental)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Application Due: Thursday, December 12, 2013

Email or fax to:

**Dr. Kenneth Gattis
School Planning Section
Safe and Healthy Schools Support Division
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**

**Kenneth.gattis@dpi.nc.gov
(919) 807-3558 (fax)**

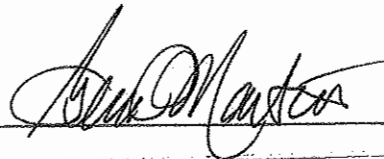
Face Sheet (Form 1)

Requesting School or Agency	LEA Number
Orange County Schools	680

A. State Funds Awarded (original applicants only)	
B. New Local Funds Committed for This Request (both original and new applicants)	\$40,000.00
C. State Funds Requested (both original and new applicants)	\$80,000.00

Name of Contact Person	Dr. Gerri Martin
Address	200 East King St.
City, Zip	Hillsborough, NC 27278
Telephone	919-732-8126
Email	gerri.martin@orange.k12.nc.us
Date	12/8/2013
Authorized Signee	Dr. Gerri Martin

Authorized signature: _____



Narrative:

Orange County Schools, in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, have had School Resource Officers in our middle and high schools for the ____ year. During that time, the district and the Sheriff's Office have developed an excellent rapport and participated in numerous joint training exercises.

After the events in Newtown, Connecticut, Sheriff Pendergrass offered to place School Resource Officers at the elementary schools as a precautionary measure. The initiative was so well received by parents, community members and school staff that the Board of Education and the Superintendent requested to have the elementary School Resource Officers become a permanent fixture in our district.

Unlike the School Resource Officers in our secondary schools, elementary School Resource Officers are not funded directly by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. As a result, the district has been required to fund this initiative by drawing from multiple local accounts. While this is a temporary solution, it is not a sound long-term funding plan.

Orange County Schools has been extremely proactive in its approach to school safety. In 2008, the district received the federal Readiness and Emergency Management in Schools (REMS) Grant, which provided funding for extensive training, evaluations and software. During this grant period, the district worked very closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Office to review school safety, evaluate procedures and implement trainings.

After the events of last December, the district contracted with Michael Dorn and Safe Havens International to evaluate the safety and preparedness of each of our district's schools and buildings. The district and schools are in the process of implementing their recommendations during the current school year. They were quick to point out that the presence of School Resource Officers in all of our schools was one of the most proactive steps that they had witnessed in the district's they had evaluated.

While this grant will not fully fund the cost of the entire program, it will provide funding for School Resource Officers in two of our seven elementary schools. This will allow Orange County Schools to appropriate \$80,000 in funding for services that have witnessed reductions in federal funding.

Budget (Form 2)

Requesting School or Agency	LEA Number
Orange County Schools	680

Proposed Full-Year 2013-14 Budget

Description	Local Funds	Grant Funds	Project Amount
Part-Time SRO hours =			
Full-Time SROs = 2 8 hrs/day 40 hrs/week	\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$120,000.00
Training 1 (specify) =			
Training 2 (specify) =			
Totals	\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$120,000.00

Notes:
