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21 Idaho Districts, Charters Receive Funding for School Resource Officers

(BOISE) – Nearly two dozen school districts and charter schools will bolster student safety and security thanks to a second round of grant funding to support School Resource Officer (SRO) positions. The grants are made possible by the Idaho Legislature and the state’s Millenium Fund and administered by the Idaho Department of Education.

The department approved funding for 21 local education agencies in all six of the state’s education regions. Of those, 12 LEAs will receive funding to bring an SRO into their district or charter for the first time. The grants support each position for three years.

“This funding means that additional districts and charters will receive resources to support a position that brings valuable peace of mind to parents, staff and students,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield. “Whether our SROs are reinforcing security efforts, being another positive role model or serving as a trusted adult for students, their presence benefits our school communities in so many positive ways.”

The awarded districts and charters are:

Alturas Academy	Boise Independent School District
Cassia County School District	Canyon Owyhee School Service Agency (COSSA)
Council School District	Emmett Independent School District
Gem Prep: Meridian	Gooding School District
Hagerman Joint School District	Hayden Canyon Charter School
Heritage Community Charter School	Highland Joint School District

Kimberly School District	Kootenai Joint School District
Lewiston Independent School District	Marsing School District
New Plymouth School District	Payette Joint School District
Pocatello-Chubbuck School District	Thomas Jefferson Charter School
Weiser School District	

“We are hopeful that having an SRO on campus will enhance our school culture by providing a trusted presence who can engage with students in meaningful conversations about the many challenges youth face today,” said Alturas Preparatory Academy Principal Reece Drkula. “From digital safety and peer pressure to mental health and community responsibility, we see this partnership as a proactive way to support student well-being and foster a safer, more informed school environment.”

Superintendent Wade Wilson of the New Plymouth School District says the addition of an SRO will bring a wealth of benefits to his students.

“Our SRO will serve as a resource to help explain, interpret and provide information and guidance to students as it pertains to laws, potentially dangerous or impactful trends and other issues that have a direct impact on a healthy school and community,” he said. “In addition, we believe the presence of an SRO will provide an increased sense of safety and security in our schools with our students, staff, parents and patrons.”

To receive funding, applicants were asked to provide an MOU created between the district and their local law enforcement agency, as well as a letter of intent stating potential applicants’ qualifications and training for the position.

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