

Walton County Department Agenda Request

Department Name: **Walton County Sheriff's Office**

Department Head/Representative: **Kim McCord**

Meeting Date Request: **11/04/2025**

Has this topic been discussed at past meetings? **No**

If so, When?

TOPIC: Walton County School FY26 SRO Addendum the Agreement

Wording For Agenda: Addendum to the 2025-2026 WCBOE SRO Agreement

This Request: **Informational Purposes Only** Needs Action by Commissioners* **Yes**

*What action are you seeking from the Commissioners? **Acceptance**

Department Comments/Recommendation:

Additional Documentation Attached? **Copy of Addendum**

Is review of this request or accompanying documentation by the County Attorney required? **Yes**

If so, has a copy of the documentation been forwarded to County Attorney? **Yes**

Date forwarded to County Attorney: **10/06/2025**

Has the County Attorney review been completed? **Yes, CA approved 10/06/2025**

If this request involves the expenditure of county funds, please answer the following:

Approved in current budget?

Budget information attached?

Comments:

Purchasing Department Comments:

County Attorney Comments:

Chairman's Comments:

**Addendum to FY26 Walton County Sheriff's Office SRO Agreement
Regarding Compliance with HB 268**

This Addendum is made and entered into this 8th day of October, 2025, by and between the Walton County School District ("WCSD") and the Walton County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO"), collectively referred to as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, the Parties previously entered into a School Resource Officer Agreement titled "Agreement Between the Walton County Sheriff's Office and the Walton County School District for the School Resource Officer Program" dated August 1, 2025 (the "Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, House Bill 268 (codified at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1183) requires that such agreements contain certain provisions related to the handling and disclosure of student education records, student data, and student personally identifiable data between WCSD and WCSO;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

- 1. Purpose.** This Addendum is executed to comply with House Bill 268.
- 2. Effective Date.** This Addendum shall become effective as of October 1, 2025.
- 3. Federal and State Law Compliance.** The Parties shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and its implementing regulations, and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-662 related to disclosure and access to student records, student data, and other student personally identifiable data. No education records shall be disclosed except as permitted by applicable law and this agreement.
- 4. Law Enforcement Unit Designation.** The Parties acknowledge and agree WCSO and its School Resource Officers are designated as a "law enforcement unit" under FERPA, 34 C.F.R. § 99.8. Records created and maintained for law enforcement purposes are not education records and access shall be governed by the Georgia Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.
- 5. School Official Designation.** To the extent a School Resource Officer ("SRO") serves on a WCSD multidisciplinary threat assessment team or assists in implementation of a school safety plan in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185, such SRO shall be deemed to be a school official, as defined by FERPA, to the extent they: (a) are performing an institutional service for which WCSD would otherwise use employees; (b) remain under the direct control of WCSD with respect to the use and maintenance of the education records; and (c) are subject to 34 C.F.R. §99.33 (a), which provides that personally identifiable information from education records may be used only for a legitimate educational purpose such as promoting school safety, evaluating risk to the school environment, protecting the physical security of

students, securing necessary services to mitigate threats, and developing and implementing all components of a threat assessment or school safety plans.

6. WCSD Responsibilities. To promote the safety, health and wellbeing of students and the school community, WCSD agrees to (a) release student education records to WCSO in order to protect the health and safety of a student or other individuals in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 99.36; and (b) designate certain types of student information as “directory information” which can be provided to WCSO without written consent, unless the parent or eligible student has opted out of the disclosure of such information.

7. WCSO Responsibilities.

(a) When SROs act in the capacity of designated school officials, WCSO shall ensure WCSD retains direct control over each SRO’s maintenance and use of student education records, data, and personally identifiable information in compliance with FERPA.

(b) Within five (5) days of an official encounter with a school-age youth, WCSO shall provide a written report of such encounter to the WCSD Director of Student Services, Eric Rubio at erubio@walton.k12.ga.us. For purposes of this Addendum, an “official encounter” means an interaction in an official capacity that is directly related to a credible report that a school-aged youth has threatened the death of, or serious injury to, one or more individuals who are or are likely to be at or within a school, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-700.

(c) WCSO shall notify the Director of Student Services if a school age youth is charged with a Class A or Class B designated felony act, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 15-11-2, and provide updates regarding any court dispositions that may occur during the course of the criminal proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Addendum as of the date first written above.

Chip Underwood
Chip Underwood, Superintendent
Walton County School District
Date: 10/16/25

SB
Keith Brooks, Sheriff
Walton County Sheriff's Office
Date: 10/06/2025